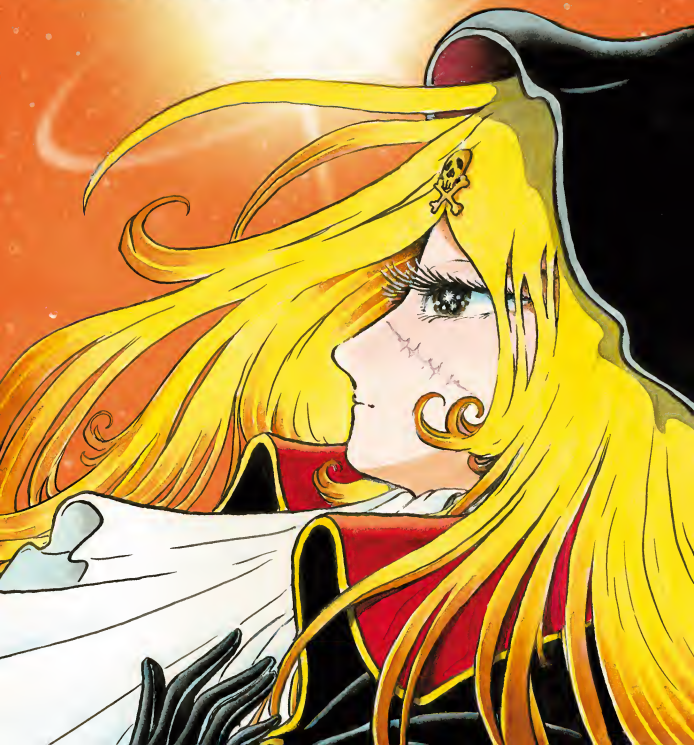


LEIJI MATSUMOTO'S

Queen EMERALDAS

VOLUME **2**



LEIJI MATSUMOTO PRESENTS

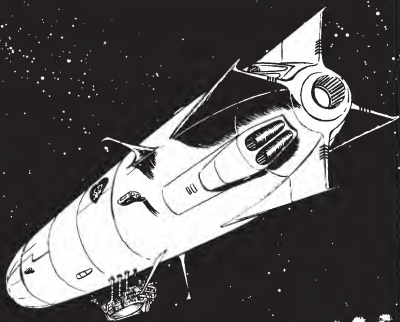


QUEEN VOL. 2 EMERALDAS



QUEEN
EMERALDAS

*I AM EMERALDAS.
A WOMAN WHO WANDERS
THE OCEAN OF STARS, UNDER
THE FLAG OF A WHITE SKULL
STAINED WITH CRIMSON BLOOD...
AND I SHOW NO MERCY TO
THOSE WHO DEFY ME.*



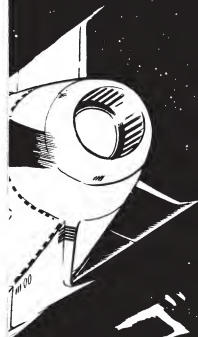




*IN SPACE,
COUNTLESS
MEN PURSUE
THEIR HOPES
AND AMBITIONS,
GAMBLING THEIR
FUTURES ON
SELFISH DREAMS...*

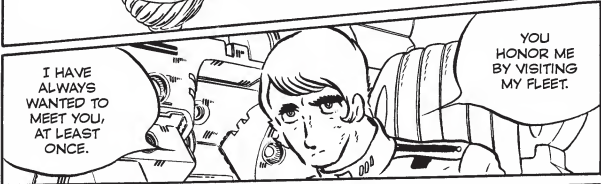


THE FLEET I
ENCOUNTERED
WAS OF
EXTRAORDINARY
SIZE...



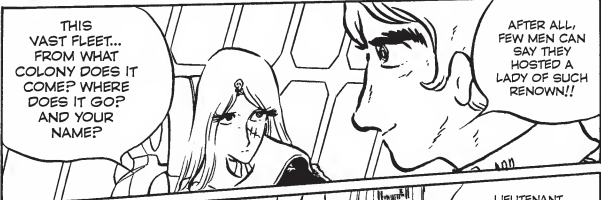


WELCOME,
EMERALDAS.
TRY SOME
CASSIOPEIAN
WINE.



I HAVE
ALWAYS
WANTED TO
MEET YOU,
AT LEAST
ONCE.

YOU
HONOR ME
BY VISITING
MY FLEET.



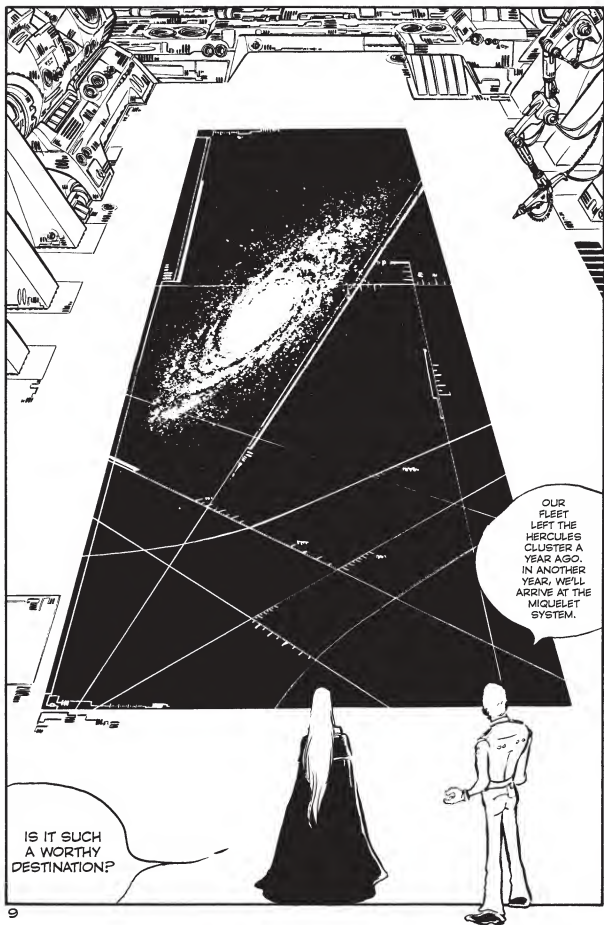
THIS
VAST FLEET...
FROM WHAT
COLONY DOES IT
COME? WHERE
DOES IT GO?
AND YOUR
NAME?

AFTER ALL,
FEW MEN CAN
SAY THEY
HOSTED A
LADY OF SUCH
RENOWN!!



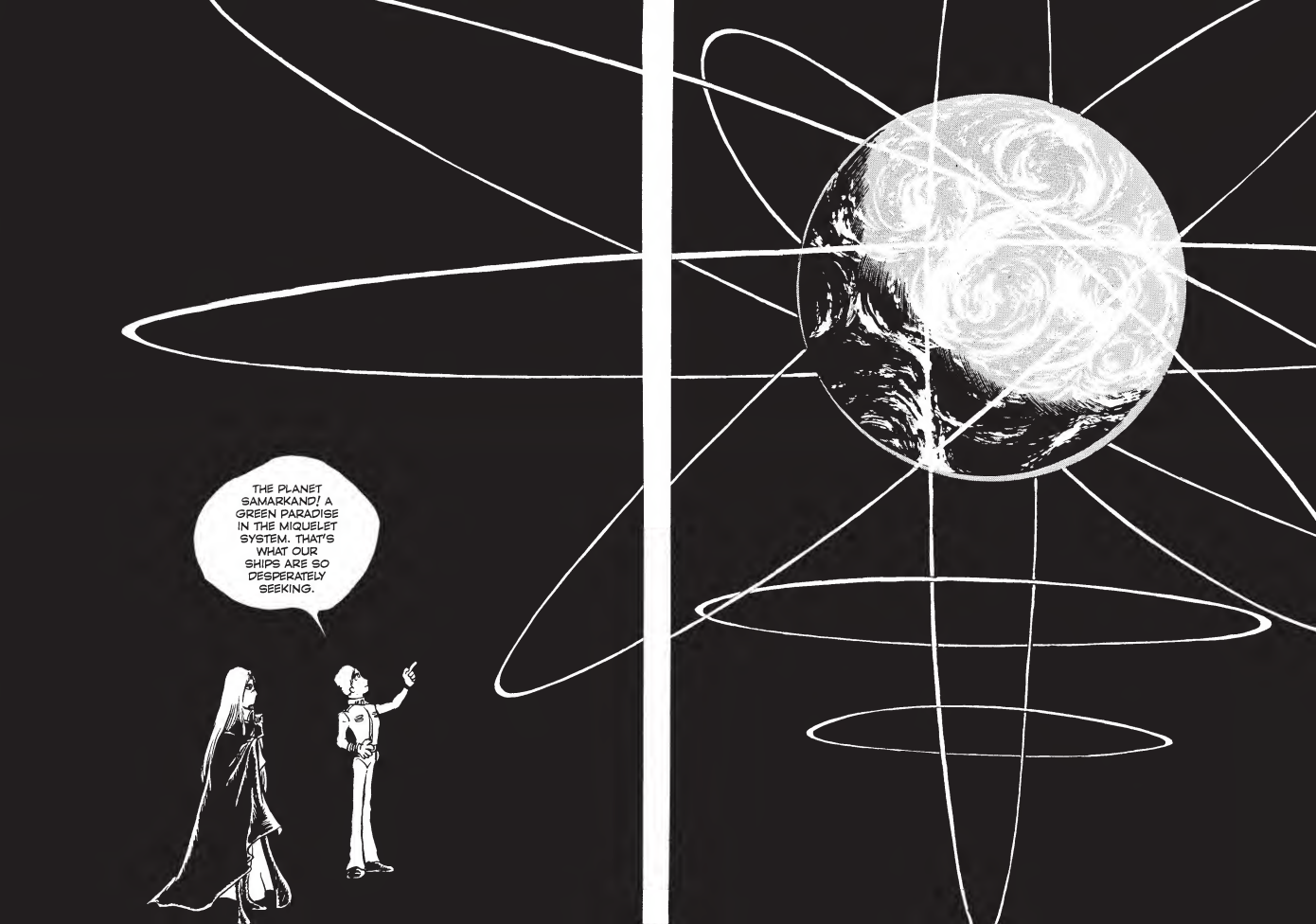
AN
IMPRESSION
RESUME.
AND WHAT
IS YOUR
OBJECTIVE
NOW?

LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER
JOHN F. DARKBACK,
AT YOUR SERVICE.
I'VE SAILED SPACE
FOR SEVEN YEARS,
AND FOUGHT IN
12 BATTLES.

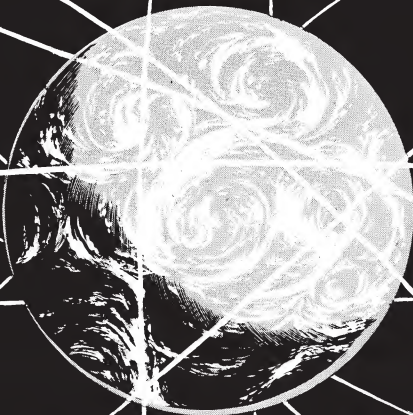


OUR
FLEET
LEFT THE
HERCULES
CLUSTER A
YEAR AGO.
IN ANOTHER
YEAR, WE'LL
ARRIVE AT THE
MIQUELET
SYSTEM.

IS IT SUCH
A WORTHY
DESTINATION?

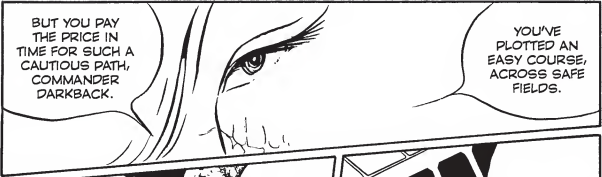


THE PLANET
SAMARKAND! A
GREEN PARADISE
IN THE MIQUELET
SYSTEM. THAT'S
WHAT OUR
SHIPS ARE SO
DESPERATELY
SEEKING.



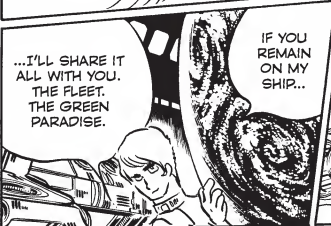


THIS IS
THE ROUTE
OUR FLEET
HAS TAKEN,
EMERALDAS.



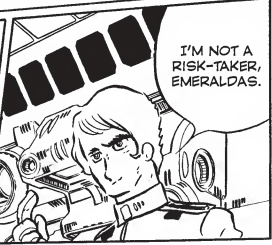
BUT YOU PAY
THE PRICE IN
TIME FOR SUCH A
CAUTIOUS PATH,
COMMANDER
DARKBACK.

YOU'VE
PLOTTED AN
EASY COURSE,
ACROSS SAFE
FIELDS.



...I'LL SHARE IT
ALL WITH YOU.
THE FLEET.
THE GREEN
PARADISE.

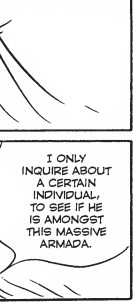
IF YOU
REMAIN
ON MY
SHIP...



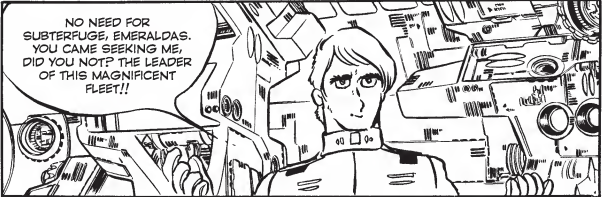
I'M NOT A
RISK-TAKER,
EMERALDAS.



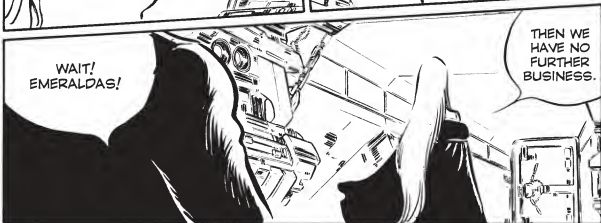
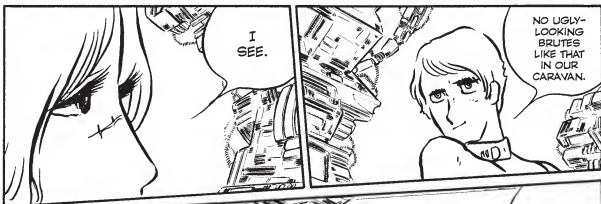
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR
SOMEONE?



I ONLY
INQUIRE ABOUT
A CERTAIN
INDIVIDUAL,
TO SEE IF HE
IS AMONGST
THIS MASSIVE
ARMADA.



NO NEED FOR
SUBTERFUGE, EMERALDAS.
YOU CAME SEEKING ME,
DID YOU NOT? THE LEADER
OF THIS MAGNIFICENT
FLEET!!





YOU
FIEND!!



OH,
REALLY?



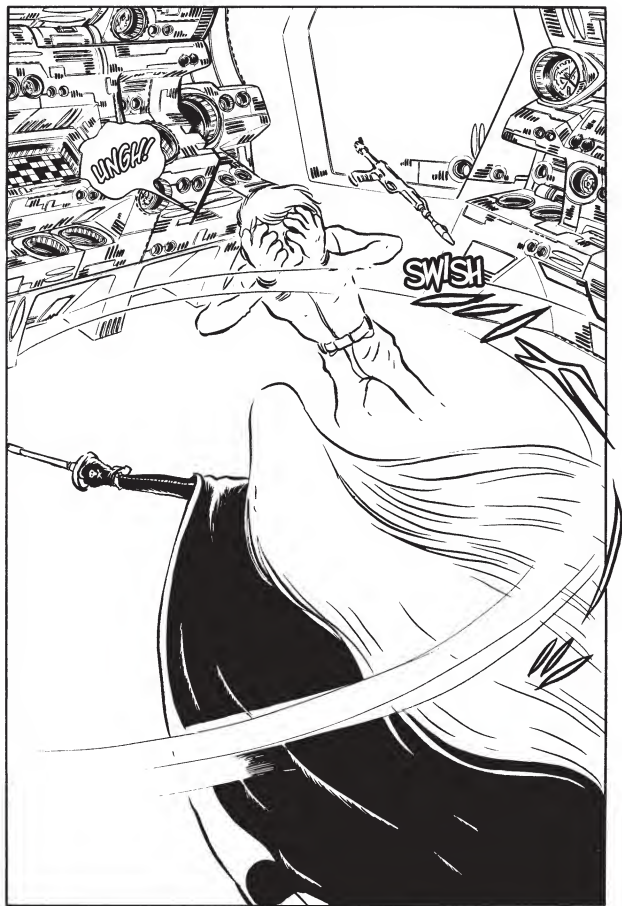
WHY?
I AM
NEITHER
YOUR
SUBORDINATE,
NOR YOUR
SERVANT.
NOR A
MEMBER
OF THIS
CARAVAN.

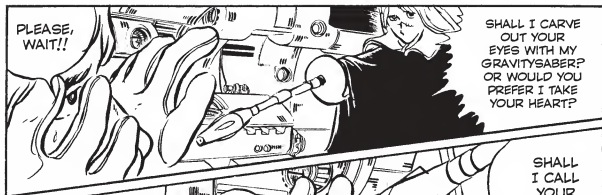


THIS
IS MY
SHIP! I
GIVE THE
ORDERS!



ON
BOARD MY
SHIP, YOU'RE
SUBJECT
TO MY
AUTHORITY!
I SAY
WHEN YOU
LEAVE!





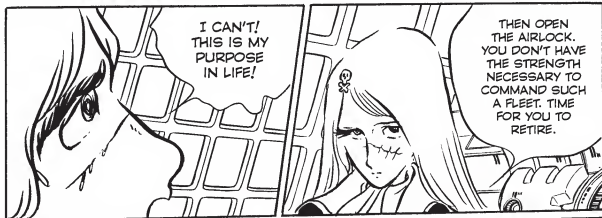
PLEASE,
WAIT!!

SHALL I CARVE
OUT YOUR
EYES WITH MY
GRAVITYSABER?
OR WOULD YOU
PREFER I TAKE
YOUR HEART?



NO! THIS IS
BETWEEN
YOU AND ME.
I DON'T WANT
THEM TO
KNOW.

SHALL
I CALL
YOUR
CREW?

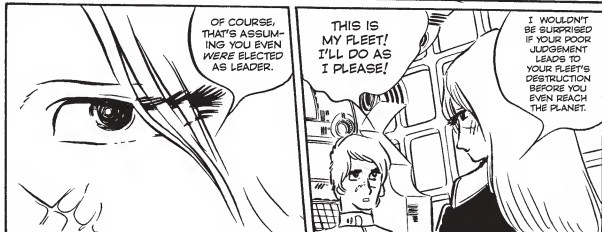


I CAN'T!
THIS IS MY
PURPOSE
IN LIFE!

THEN OPEN
THE AIRLOCK.
YOU DON'T HAVE
THE STRENGTH
NECESSARY TO
COMMAND SUCH
A FLEET. TIME
FOR YOU TO
RETIRE.



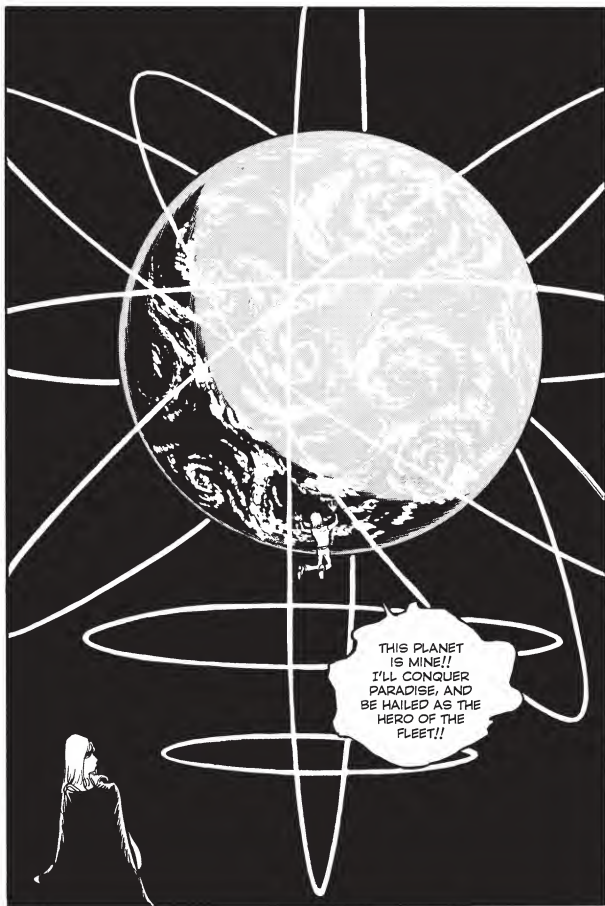
AN
INCOMPETENT
COMMANDER
WILL ONLY GUIDE
THIS FLEET TO
RUIN.



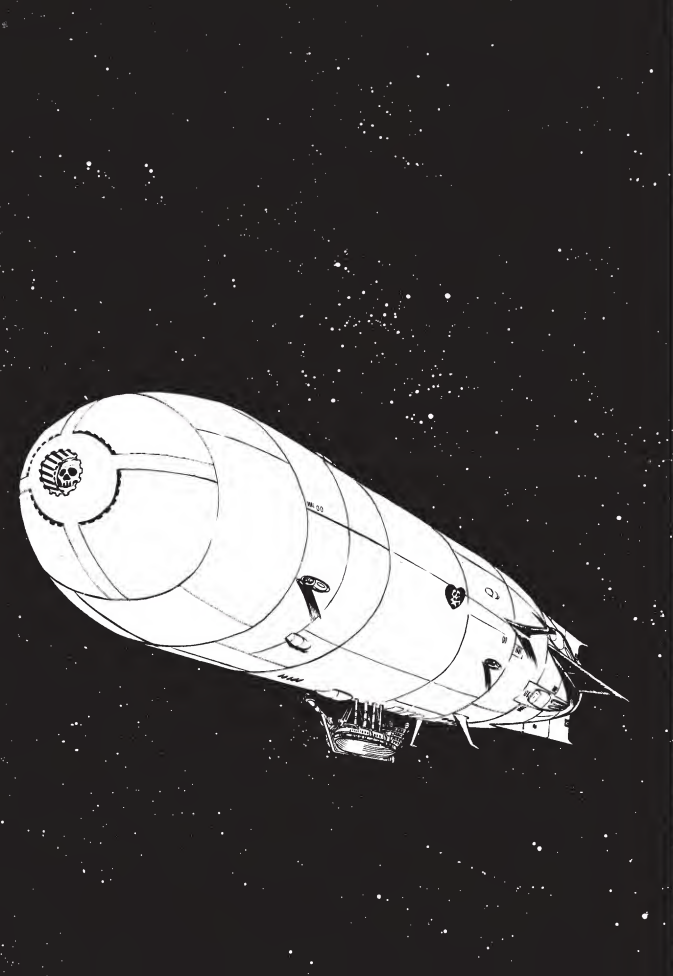
OF COURSE,
THAT'S ASSUM-
ING YOU EVEN
WERE ELECTED
AS LEADER.

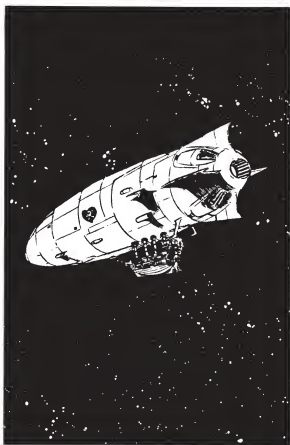
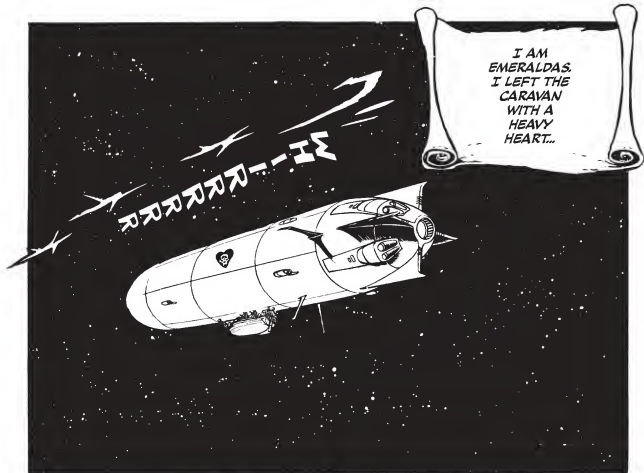
THIS IS
MY FLEET!
I'LL DO AS
I PLEASE!

I WOULDN'T
BE SURPRISED
IF YOUR POOR
JUDGEMENT
LEADS TO
YOUR FLEET'S
DESTRUCTION
BEFORE YOU
EVEN REACH
THE PLANET.

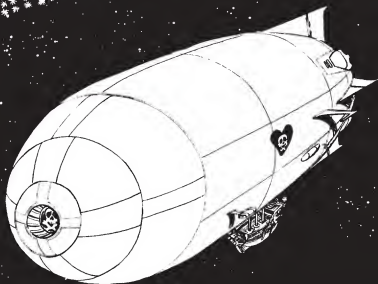








THINKING OF THE FUTURE
SUCH A HUGE ARMADA WILL
SUFFER UNDER SO INEPT A
COMMANDER CAUSED MY
HEART TO ACHE, BUT IF THE
PEOPLE THEMSELVES CHOSE
AN INCOMPETENT LEADER, THE
OUTCOME IS INEVITABLE...
THE OCEAN OF STARS IS
UNFORGIVING...







MANY ARE
THE MEN WHO
WANDER THE
BOUNDLESS
REACHES
OF SPACE,
SWELLING
WITH GREAT
AMBITIONS.

NOW...
I NEARED
THE TWIN
SUNS OF
VESVERAS,
WHOSE SOLAR
PROMINENCES
FORMED
FLAMING
STREAMS,
WHICH FLOWED
AT FURIOUS
SPEEDS.



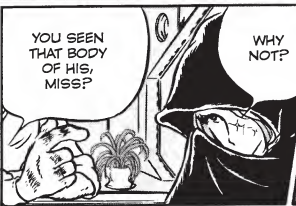
SHIPS WITH
INADEQUATE
SHIELDING
CANNOT
TRAVERSE
THIS
CURRENT
OF FIRE.



I ONCE MET
A MAN WHO
CLAIMED TO BE
ABLE TO CROSS
THAT FLAMING
STREAM.
IT WAS ON
A COLONIAL
PLANET...

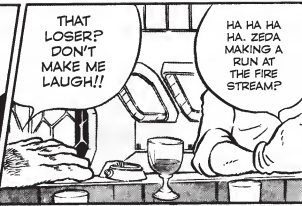


YES...
A MAN
NAMED
ZEDA...



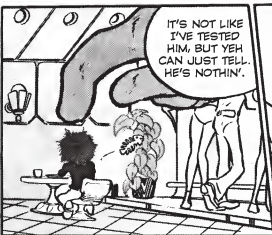
YOU SEEN
THAT BODY
OF HIS,
MISS?

WHY
NOT?

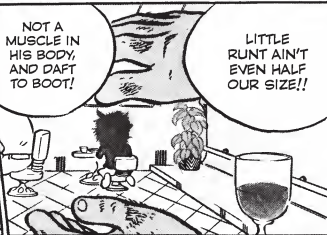


THAT
LOSER?
DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH!!

HA HA HA
HA. ZEDA
MAKING A
RUN AT
THE FIRE
STREAM?

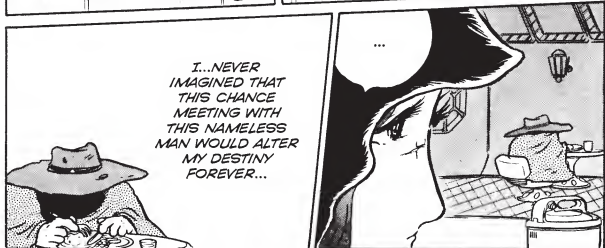
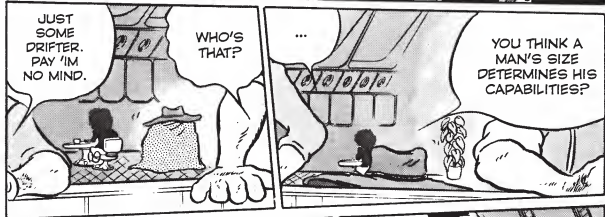
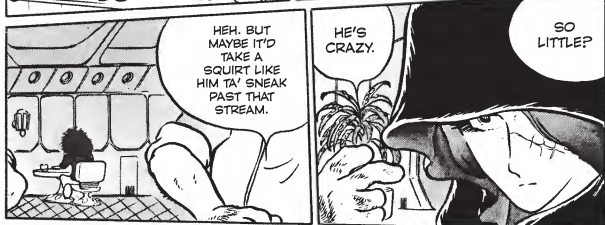
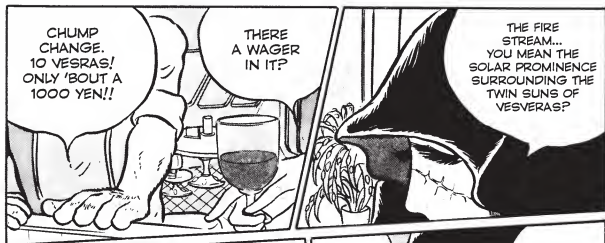


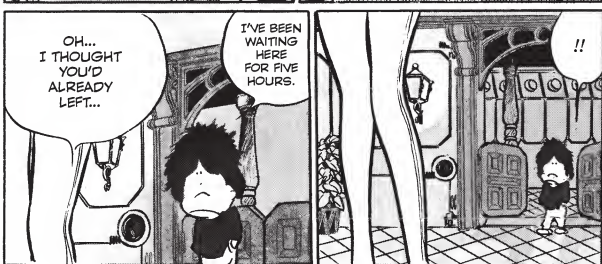
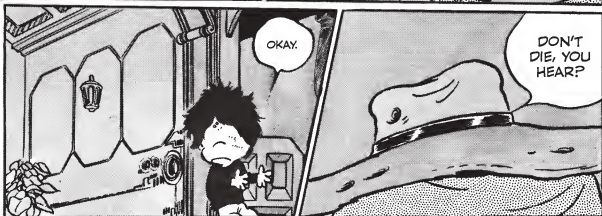
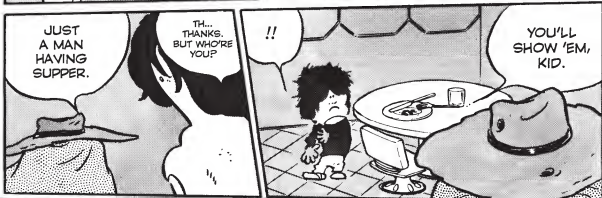
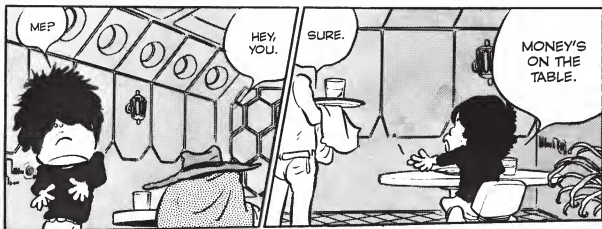
IT'S NOT LIKE
I'VE TESTED
HIM, BUT YEH
CAN JUST TELL.
HE'S NOTHIN'.

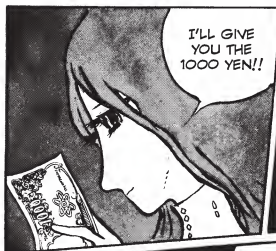


NOT A
MUSCLE IN
HIS BODY,
AND DAFT
TO BOOT!

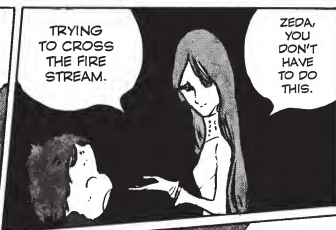
LITTLE
RUNT AIN'T
EVEN HALF
OUR SIZE!!





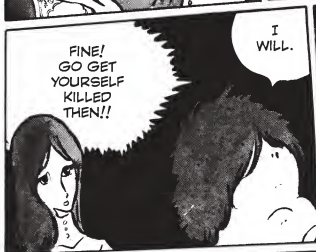


I'LL GIVE
YOU THE
1000 YEN!!



TRYING
TO CROSS
THE FIRE
STREAM.

ZEDA,
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO DO
THIS.

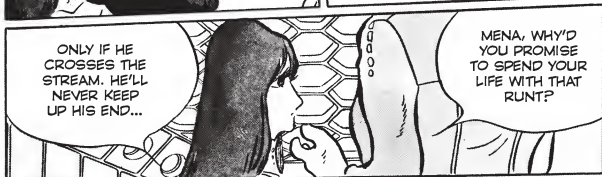


FINE!
GO GET
YOURSELF
KILLED
THEN!!

I
WILL.

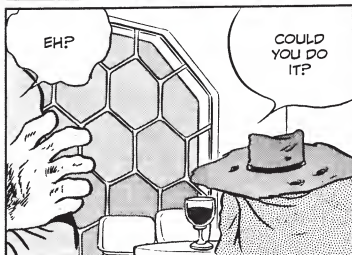


I'M
GONNA
GET PAST
THAT
PROMINENCE
STREAM!!



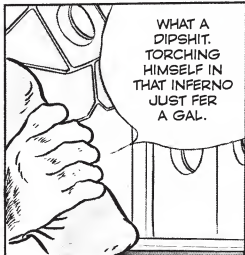
ONLY IF HE
CROSSES THE
STREAM. HE'LL
NEVER KEEP
UP HIS END...

MENA, WHY'D
YOU PROMISE
TO SPEND YOUR
LIFE WITH THAT
RUNT?

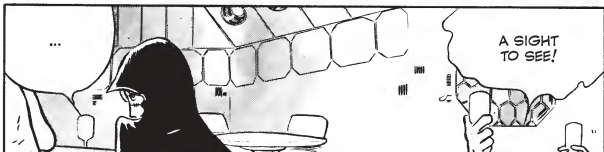
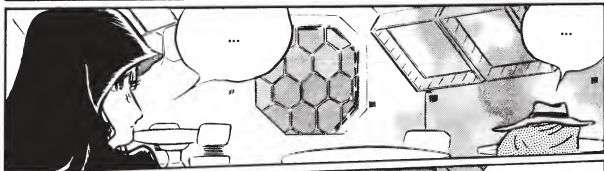
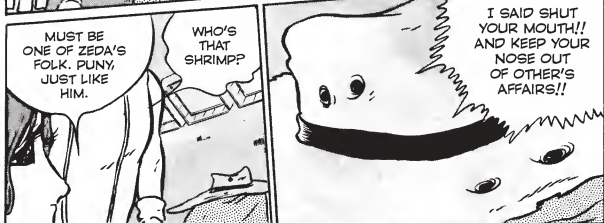


EH?

COULD
YOU DO
IT?



WHAT A
DIPSHIT.
TORCHING
HIMSELF IN
THAT INFERNO
JUST FER
A GAL.





YEAH.

ZEDA...
IS THAT YOUR
SHIP DOCKED
IN PORT? THE
BROWN ONE?
MID-SIZED?



GOOD
ENOUGH.

HOW'S
THE HEAT
SHIELD-
ING?



FOR THE
MONEY?

IT'LL BE RISKY.
WHY'RE YOU
DOING THIS?
FOR A GIRL?



I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
ALL THAT.

NO.

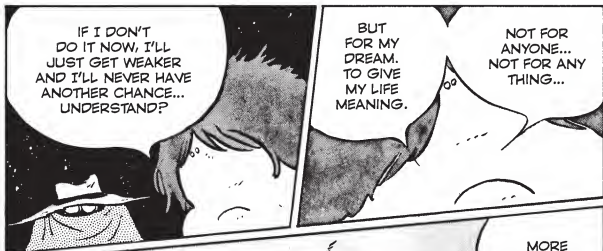


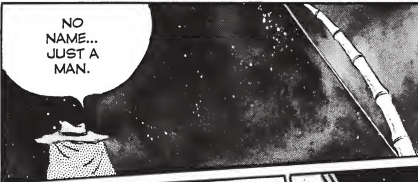
I'M GONNA
GET PAST THAT
PROMINENCE
STREAM. IT'S
MY DREAM.



I'VE BEEN
STARING AT
THAT STREAM
SINCE I WAS
A BOY.







NO NAME...
JUST A
MAN.



WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



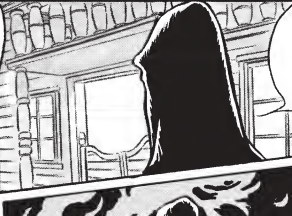
...



A MAN WHO
RISKED HIS
LIFE FOR HIS
DREAM, JUST
LIKE YOU.



LAST NIGHT,
PULLED THROUGH
BEFORE I GOT
FRIED. STILL
SMELL A BIT
BURNT.

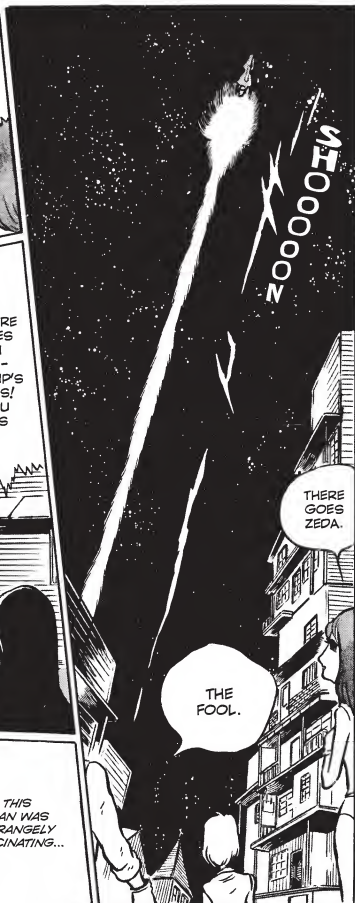
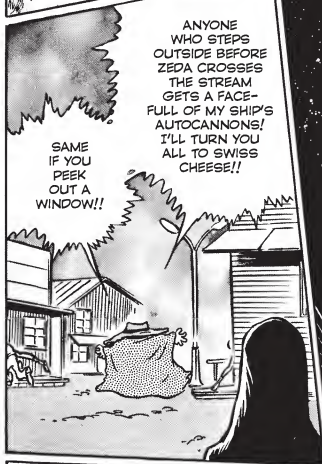


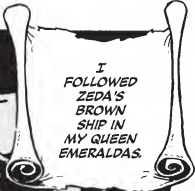
HAVE YOU
FLOWN
THROUGH
THE FIRE
STREAM?



...



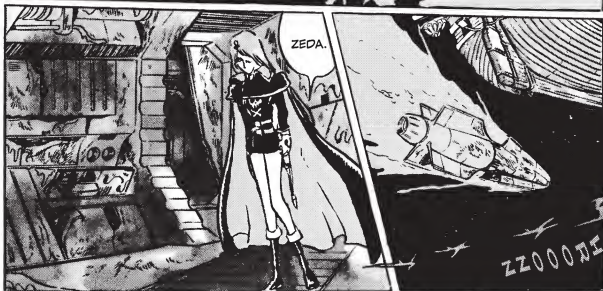
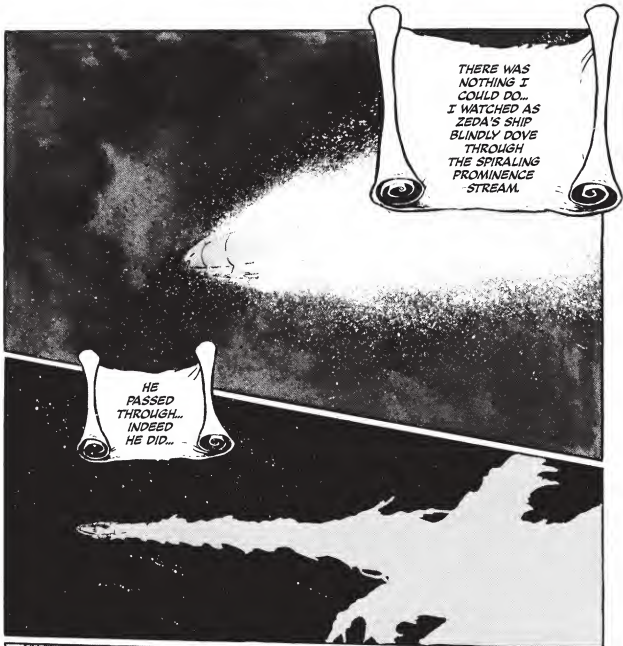


A scroll with a decorative border, containing text.

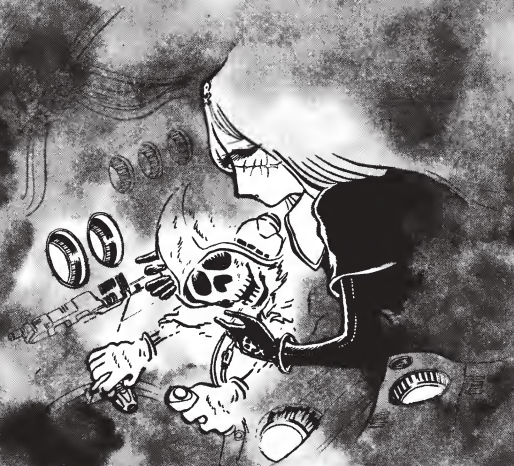
I
FOLLOWED
ZEDA'S
BROWN
SHIP IN
MY QUEEN
EMERALDAS.

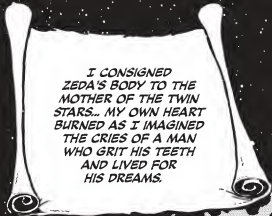
A close-up of a character's face, looking out towards the sea.

IT'S
HOPELESS.
HIS SHIP
LACKS
SUFFICIENT
SHIELDING...



FOR THE FIRST TIME,
I HAD BEGUN TO
UNDERSTAND THE HEART OF
A MAN WILLING TO RISK HIS
LIFE FOR HIS DREAMS...
THE HEART OF A MAN WHO
DIED FOR HIS DREAMS...
A MAN WHO DIED WITH
NO REGRET IN HIS MIND...
WHAT I HAD WITNESSED
WAS UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL...
AND ZEDA ALLOWED ME
TO UNDERSTAND THIS
WITHOUT SPEAKING A
SINGLE WORD...

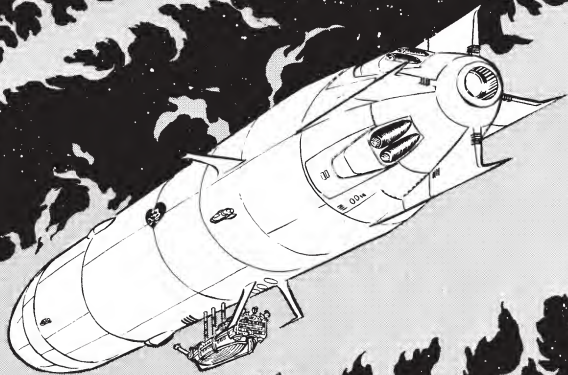




I CONSIGNED
ZEDA'S BODY TO THE
MOTHER OF THE TWIN
STARS... MY OWN HEART
BURNED AS I IMAGINED
THE CRIES OF A MAN
WHO GRIT HIS TEETH
AND LIVED FOR
HIS DREAMS.

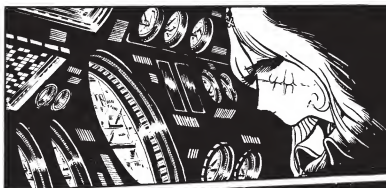


I DO NOT BELIEVE
IN REINCARNATION.
YET FOR ZEDA'S SAKE
I PRAYED THAT HE
SHOULD BE REBORN
AS A MAN AND
ONCE MORE FULFILL
HIS DREAMS.

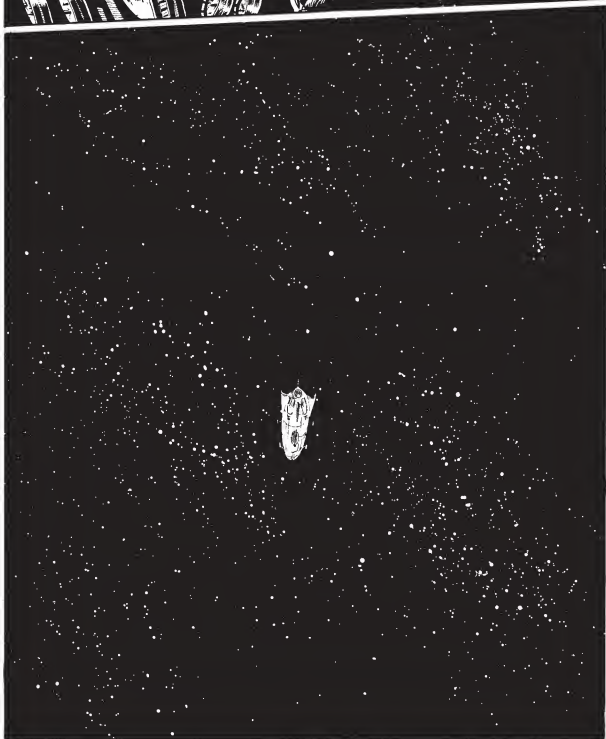


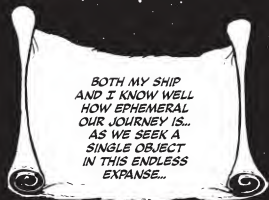


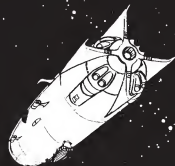
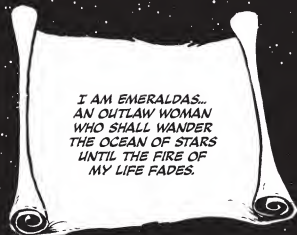
AMIDST THE
INFINITE STARS
SHINING IN THIS
BOUNDLESS SEA
BURNS THE FLAMES
OF REGRET, OF
THE UNFULFILLED
DREAMS OF MEN
YOUNG AND OLD.
THIS I KNOW.

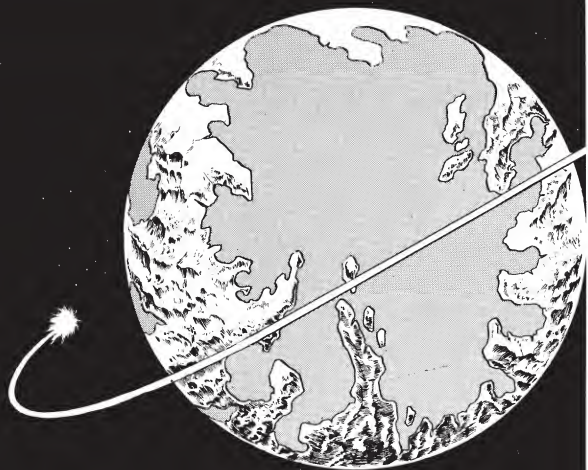


THE DAY WILL
COME WHEN
I JOIN THEIR
NUMBERS,
BURNING MY
SOLITARY
FIRE...



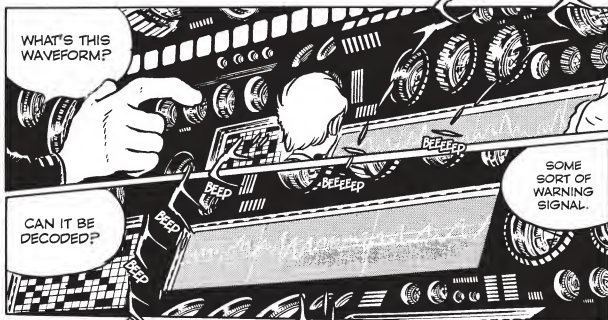






COSMO-
RADAR
LOCKED
ONTO A
HIGH-SPEED
FLYING
OBJECT!!

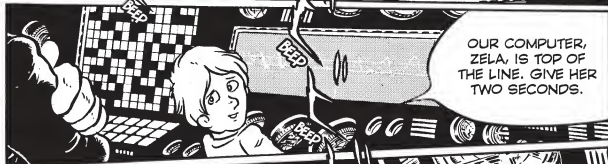
HORIZONTAL
TO THE
EQUATORIAL
PLANE...
DISTANCE:
220 ASTRO-
KILOMETERS!!



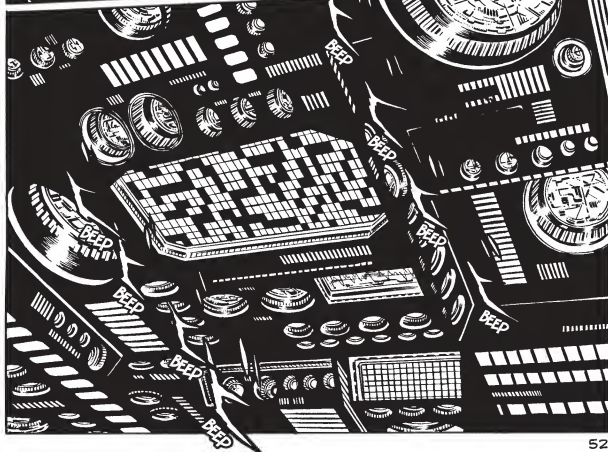
WHAT'S THIS
WAVEFORM?

SOME
SORT OF
WARNING
SIGNAL.

CAN IT BE
DECODED?

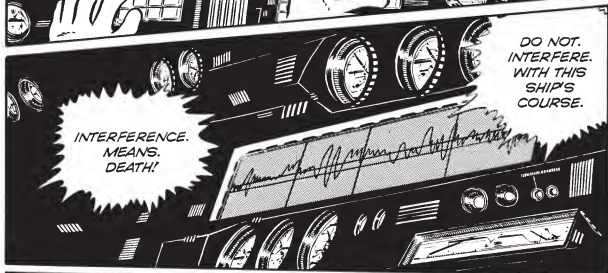


OUR COMPUTER,
ZELA, IS TOP OF
THE LINE. GIVE HER
TWO SECONDS.



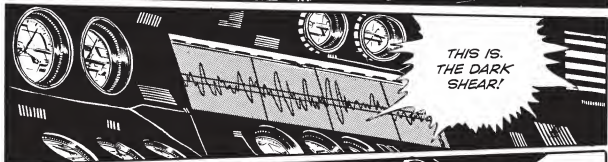


DECODING
COMPLETE.



INTERFERENCE.
MEANS.
DEATH!

DO NOT.
INTERFERE.
WITH THIS
SHIP'S
COURSE.

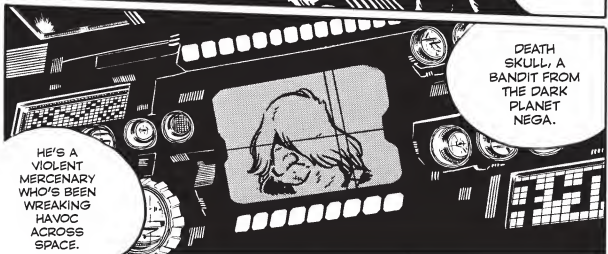


THIS IS.
THE DARK
SHEAR!



THE
CAPTAIN'S
IN OUR
DATABANKS...

DARK
SHEAR?



HE'S A
VIOLENT
MERCENARY
WHO'S BEEN
WREAKING
HAVOC
ACROSS
SPACE.

DEATH
SKULL, A
BANDIT FROM
THE DARK
PLANET
NEGA.



THIS MAN
DESTROYED
NEGA WITH HIS
OWN HANDS...

A TERRIBLE FOE.
NONE CAN
WITHSTAND HIM.



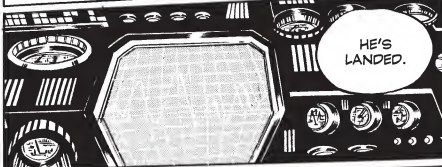


I DOUBT HE'S
SIGHTSEEING...

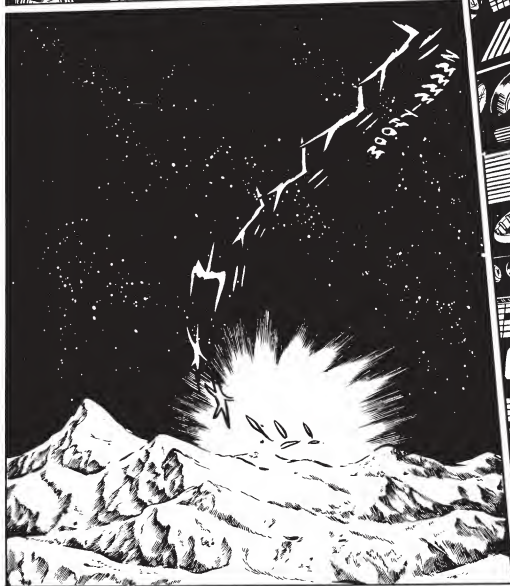
WHAT ARE HIS
INTENTIONS?



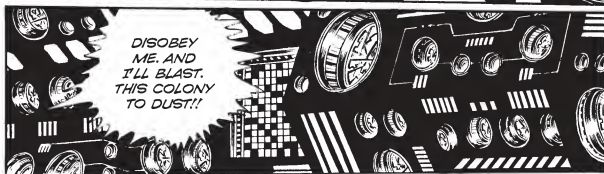
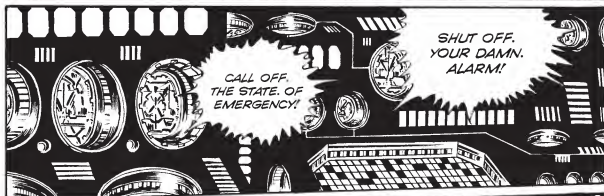
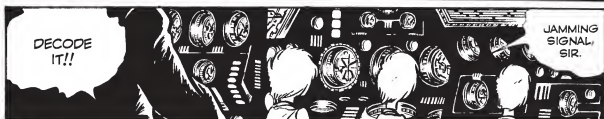
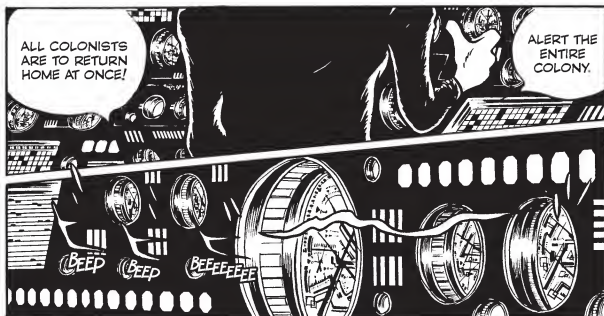
APPROACHING
THE FAR SIDE OF
MOUNT CRAFT.

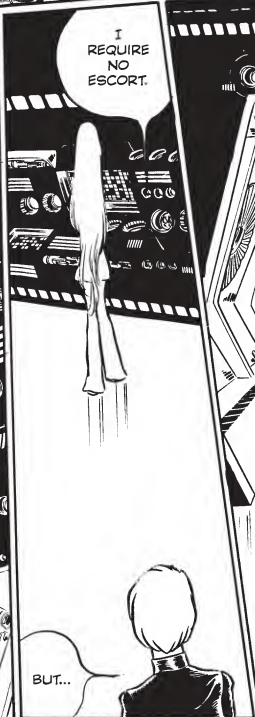
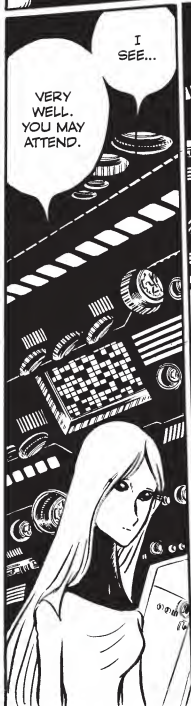


HE'S
LANDED.



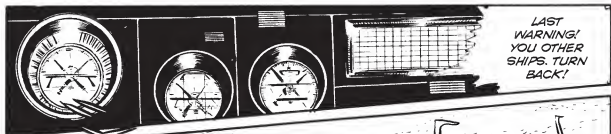






SET COURSE.
ARC RIGHT, THEN
ACCELERATE
AND MAINTAIN
ALTITUDE.



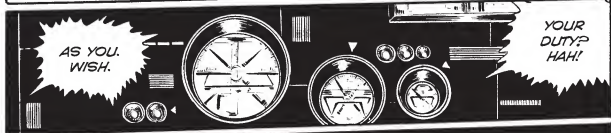


LAST
WARNING!
YOU OTHER
SHIPS. TURN
BACK!



THIS
IS OUR
DUTY.

SHEEENNN



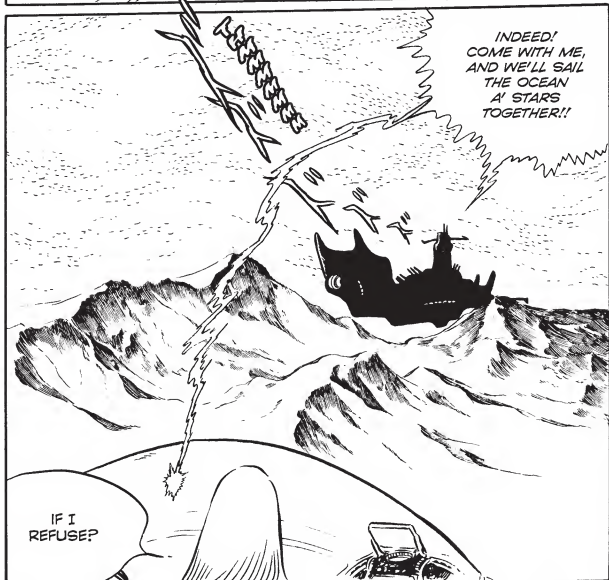
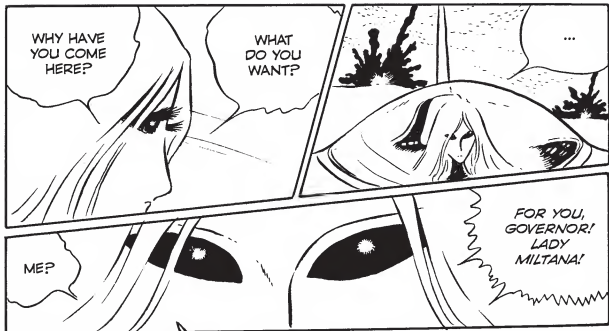
AS YOU.
WISH.

YOUR
DUTY?
HAH!



PEW







AND
DESTROY
THIS
PLANET!

THEN
I'LL KILL
YOU!



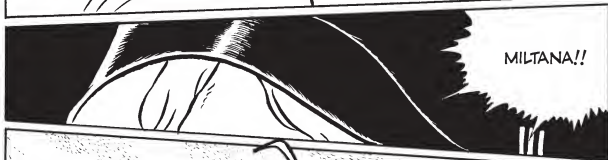
...

ALWAYS
!!

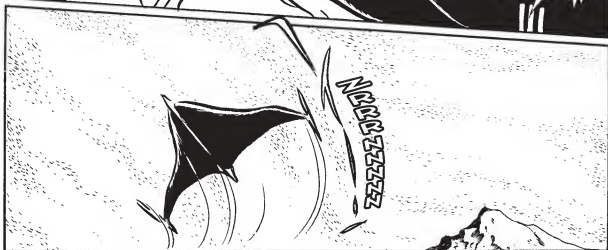
I ALWAYS
GET WHAT
I WANT!



YET YOU
CANNOT TOUCH
THE HEARTS OF
MEN, DEATH
SKULL.



MILTANA!!



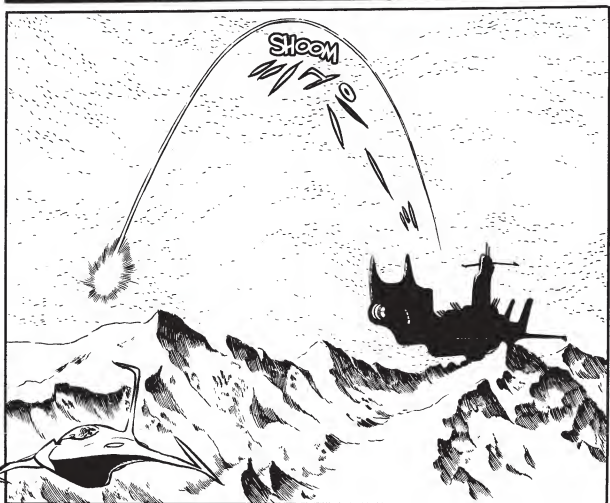
NEEEEEZZZZZ



DO NOT
UNDERESTIMATE
ME. FIND A
DIFFERENT
PLANET.

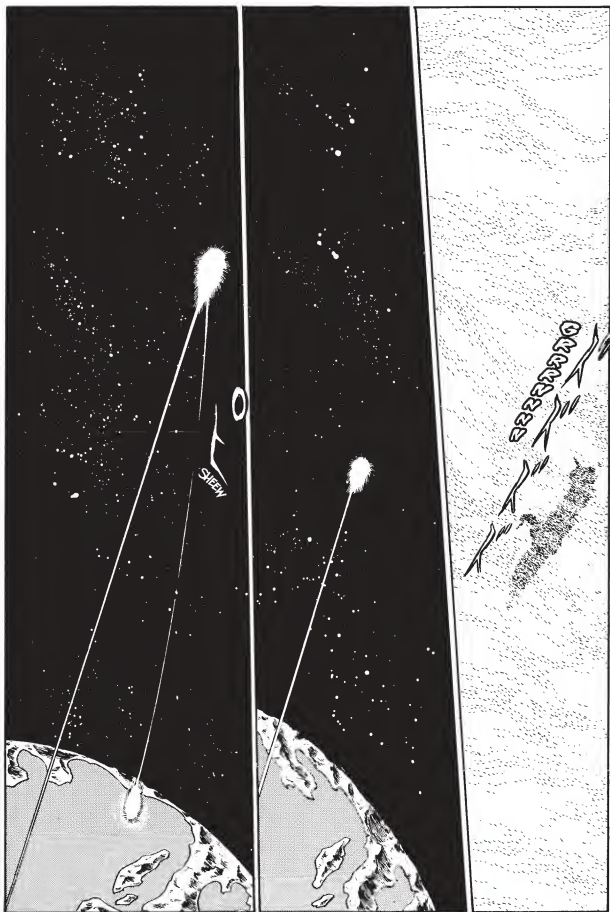


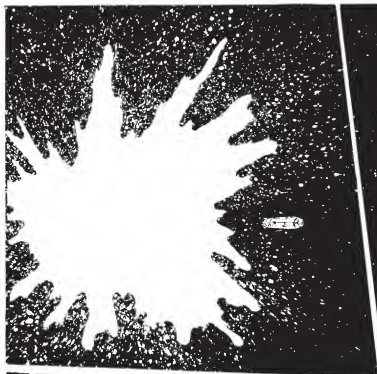
ZAPPPRRNNNN



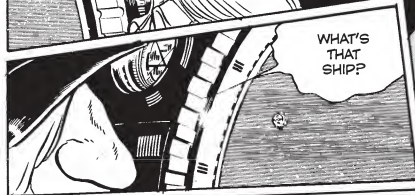
SHOOM







PECULIAR.
WITHOUT
WARNING...
A PLANET
EXPLODES...



WHAT'S
THAT
SHIP?

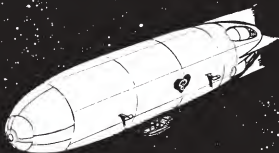


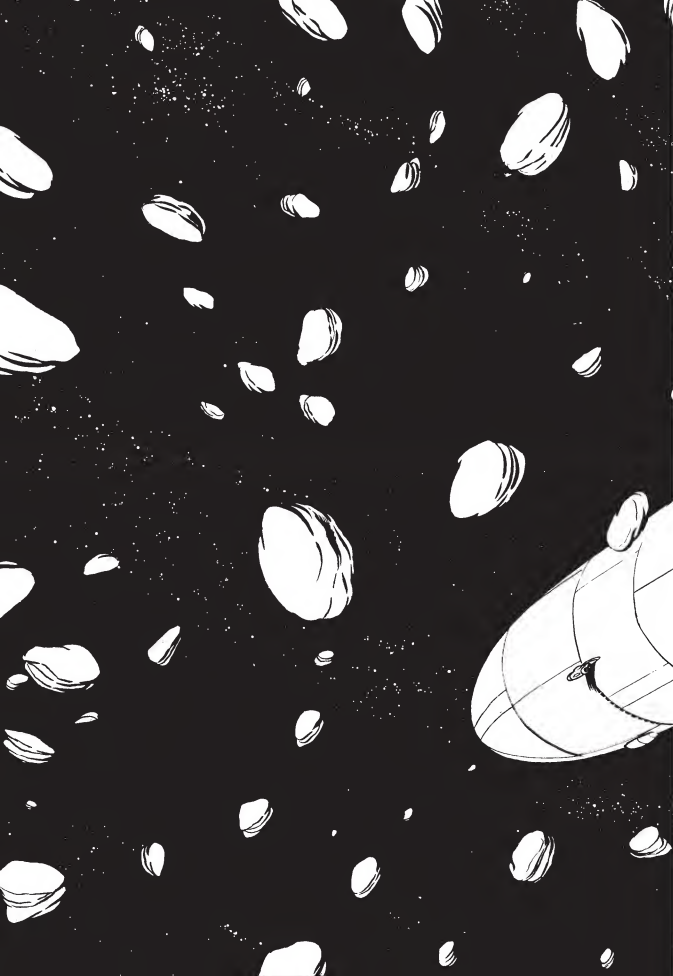
IT'S HER!
THIS OUGHTA BE
INTERESTIN'!

HA...
THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS...

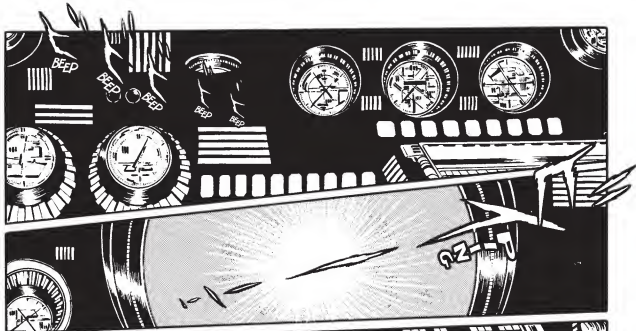


SPACE, THIS OCEAN OF STARS
IS WHERE FREE MEN CHASE
THEIR WILD AMBITIONS IN AN
EVER-EXPANDING CIRCLE,
BUT AS MUCH AS THEIR CIRCLES
WIDEN, THIS SEA IS INFINITE...
I AM EMERALDAS, AND IT
IS IN THIS BOUNDLESS DEEP
THAT I WANDER...





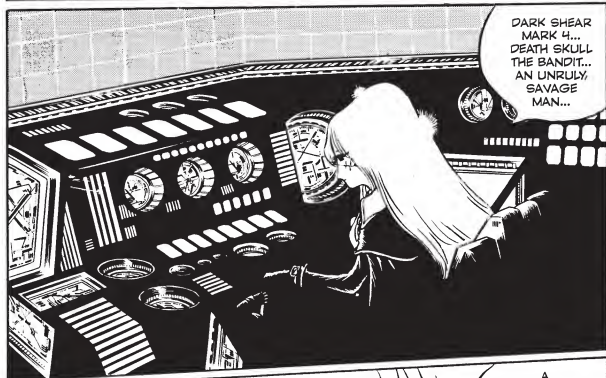




LEVEL 6,
CATEGORY C.
A DANGEROUS
SPECIMEN.



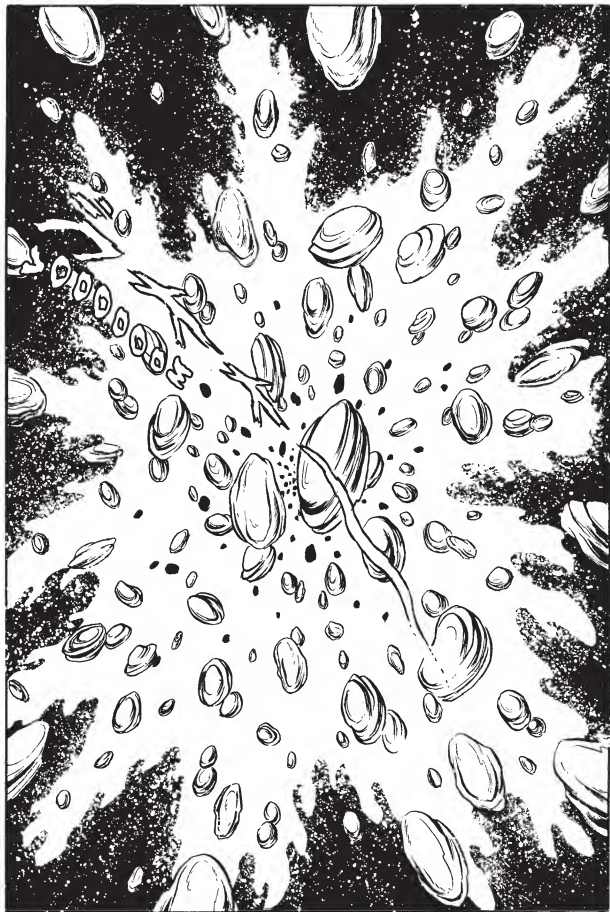
DARK SHEAR
MARK 4...
DEATH SKULL
THE BANDIT...
AN UNRULY,
SAVAGE
MAN...

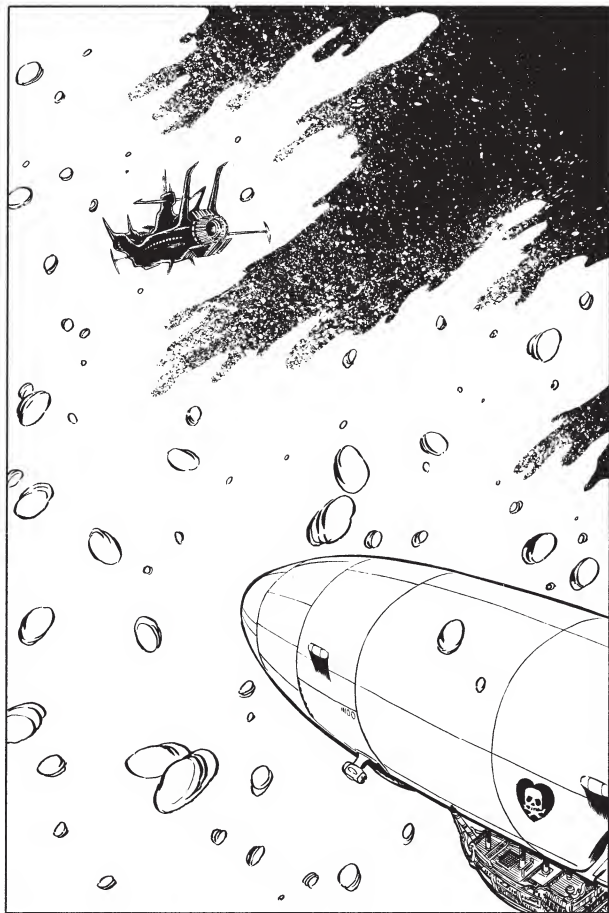


THIS MAN HAS
OBLITERATED
64 THUS FAR...
I SEE...SO THAT
PLANET WAS
ALSO...

A
PATHETIC MAN
POSSESSED BY
VIOLENT URGES...
HE DESTROYS
ANY WORLDS THAT
DISPLEASE HIM...

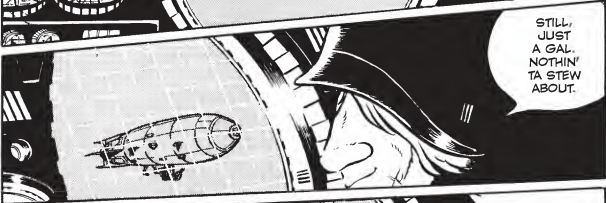




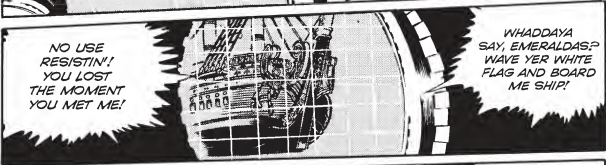




HMM...
SO SHE'S
COME
'ROUND
BEHIND
ME...

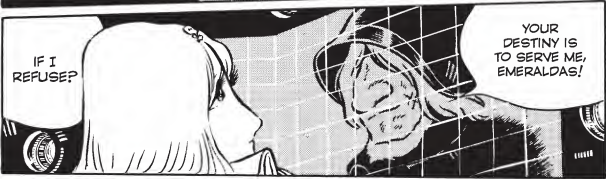


STILL,
JUST
A GAL.
NOTHIN'
TA STEW
ABOUT.



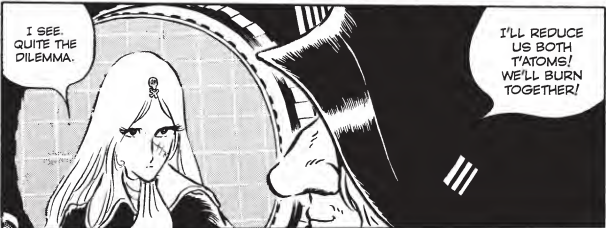
NO USE
RESISTIN'!
YOU LOST
THE MOMENT
YOU MET ME!

WHADDAYA
SAY, EMERALDAS?
WAVE YER WHITE
FLAG AND BOARD
ME SHIP!



IF I
REFUSE?

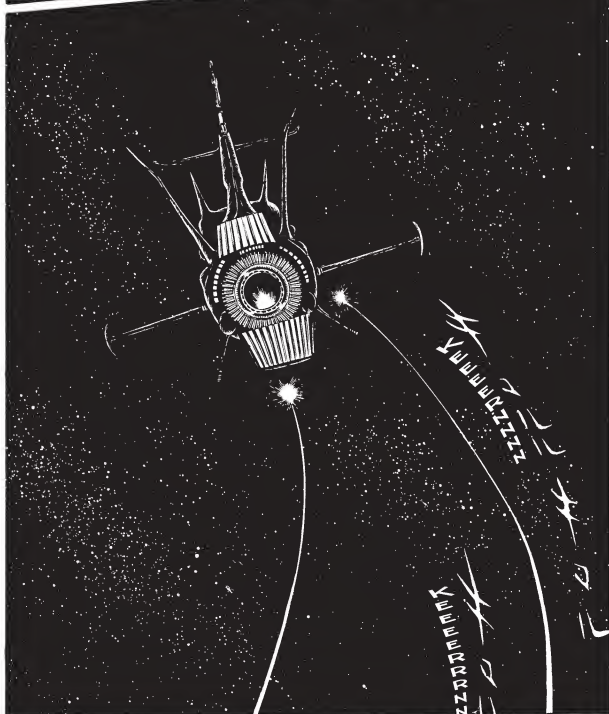
YOUR
DESTINY IS
TO SERVE ME,
EMERALDAS!



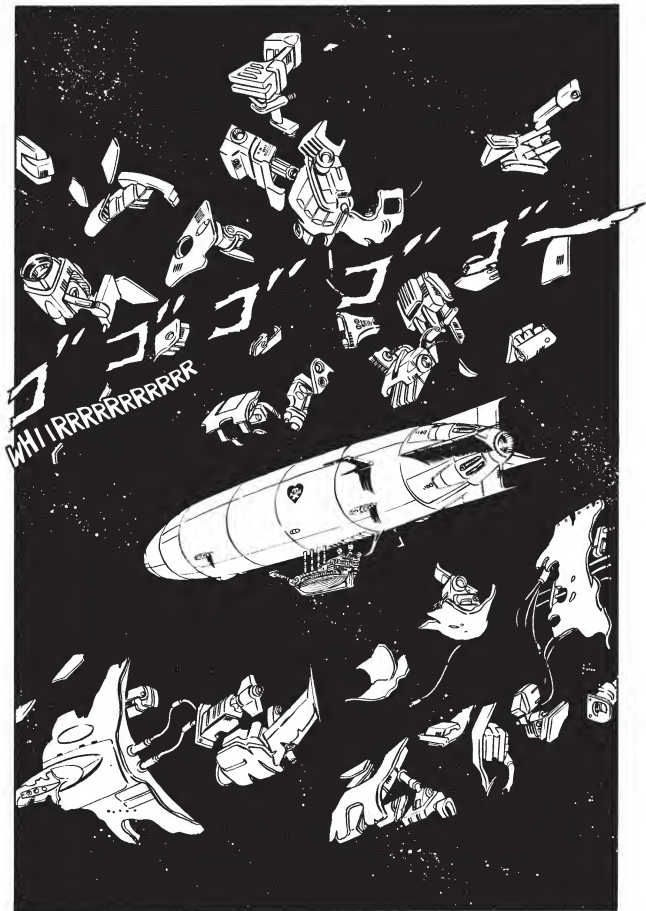
I SEE.
QUITE THE
DILEMMA.

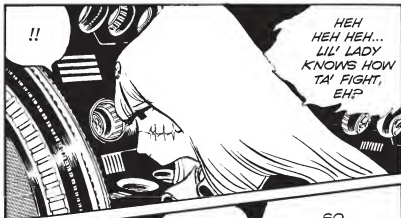
I'LL REDUCE
US BOTH
T'ATOMS!
WE'LL BURN
TOGETHER!





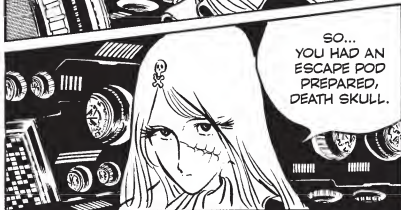




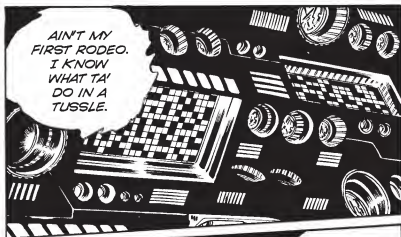


!!

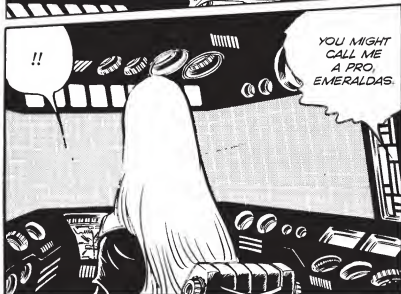
HEH
HEH HEH...
LIL' LADY
KNOWS HOW
TA' FIGHT,
EHP



SO...
YOU HAD AN
ESCAPE POD
PREPARED,
DEATH SKULL.

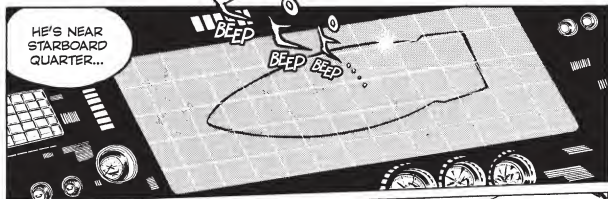


AIN'T MY
FIRST RODEO.
I KNOW
WHAT TA'
DO IN A
TUSSE.



!!

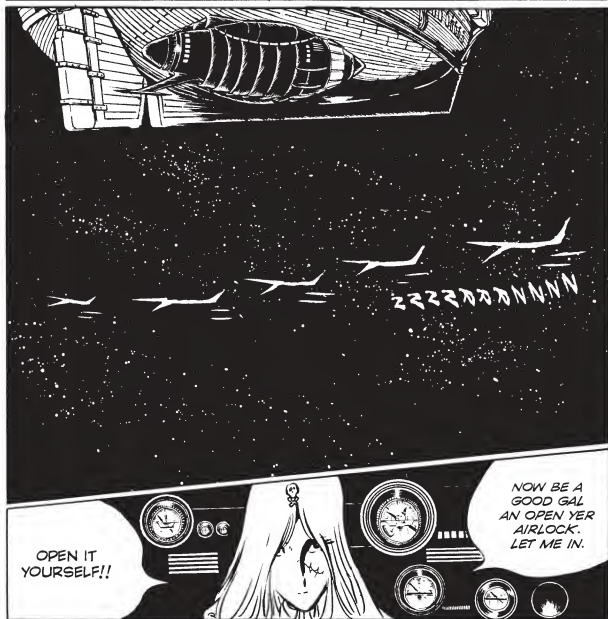
YOU MIGHT
CALL ME
A PRO,
EMERALDAS.



HE'S NEAR
STARBOARD
QUARTER...

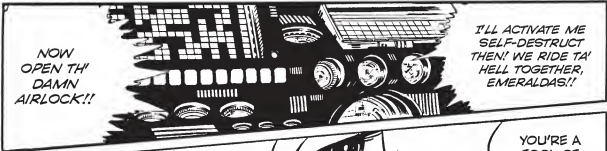


GET IT NOW,
EMERALDAS?
NO ONE
BEATS ME...



OPEN IT
YOURSELF!!

NOW BE A
GOOD GAL
AN OPEN YER
AIRLOCK.
LET ME IN.



NOW
OPEN TH'
DAMN
AIRLOCK!!

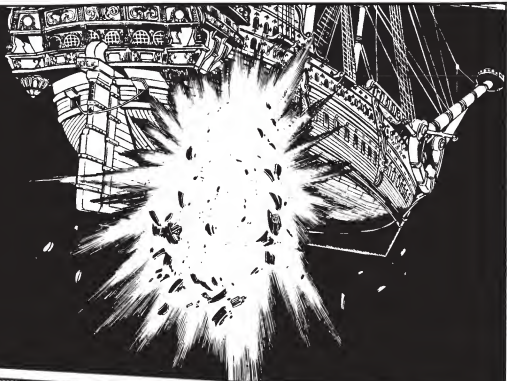
I'LL ACTIVATE ME
SELF-DESTRUCT
THEN! WE RIDE TA'
HELL TOGETHER,
EMERALDAS!!



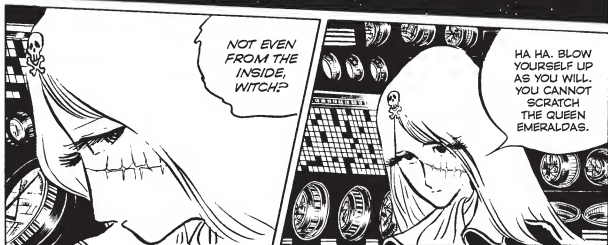
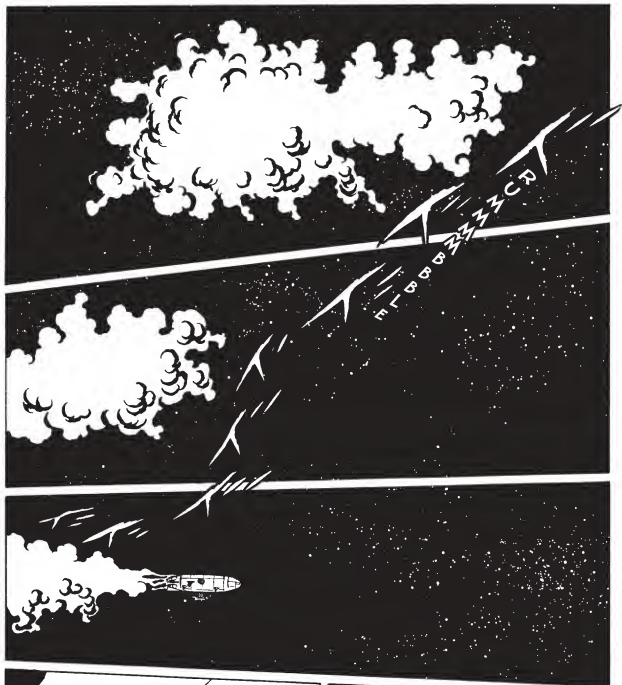
YOU'RE A
FOOL OF
A MAN!!



THEN
DIE,
WITCH!!

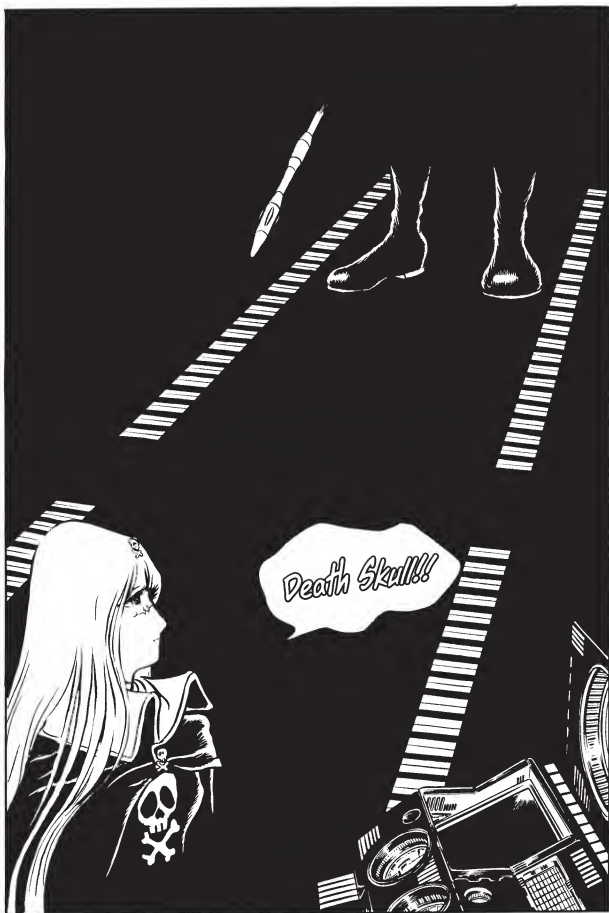






NOT EVEN
FROM THE
INSIDE,
WITCH?

HA HA. BLOW
YOURSELF UP
AS YOU WILL.
YOU CANNOT
SCRATCH
THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS.





HEAD
TO SECTOR
2070389,
THE DARK
PLANET
ALLO-
SAURUS!!

NOW
CHANGE
COURSE!!

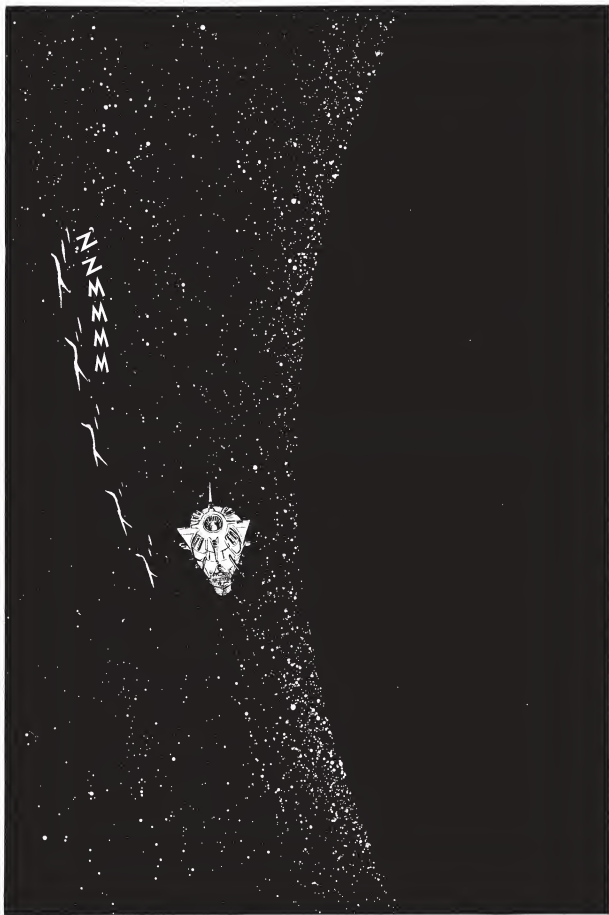


IS
THAT
SO?

NOW
YOU GET IT,
EMERALDAS!
AIN'T NOTHIN'
I CAN'T
DO!!









IT'S A
MAGNIFICENT
PLANET!!

THIS WORLD
SEEMS BLEAK,
DEATH SKULL.



MY FAVORITE
PLACE, ASIDE
FROM MY
HOMEWORLD!

EVERYTHING'S
SOLID BLACK!
AIN'T NO
BETTER COLOR
IN THE
WORLD!

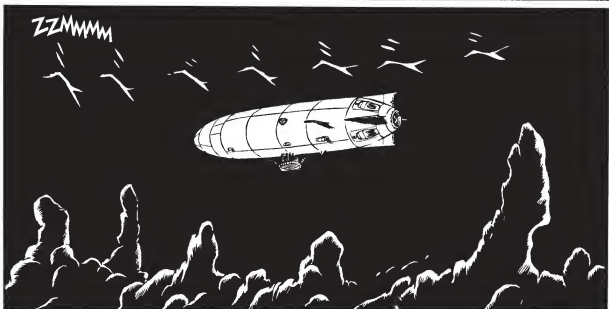


GOT
THAT
RIGHT!

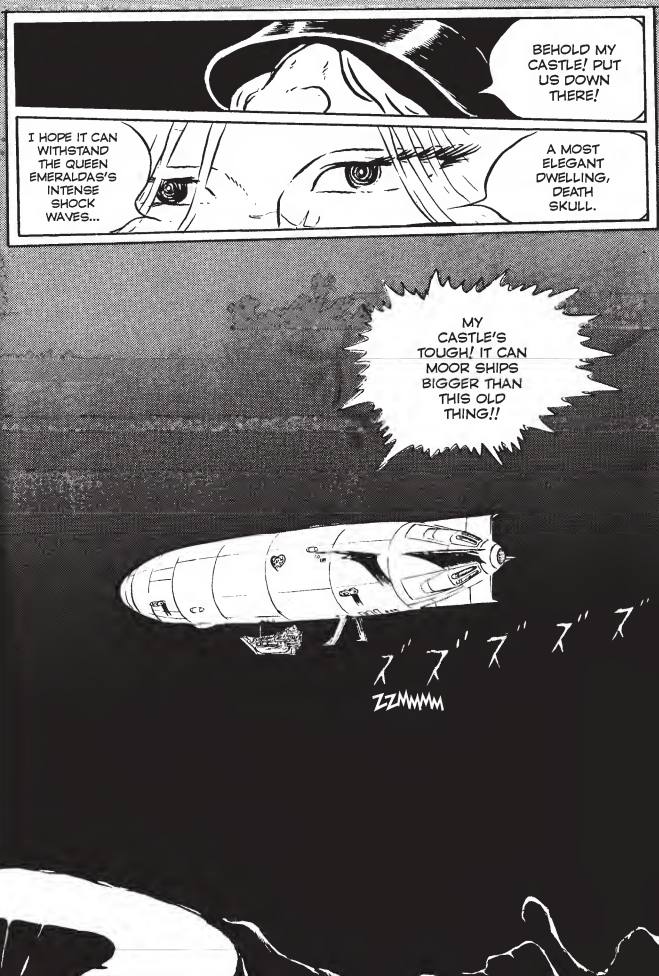
THAT SAME
HOMEWORLD
YOU DESTROYED
WITH YOUR OWN
HANDS, DEATH
SKULL?

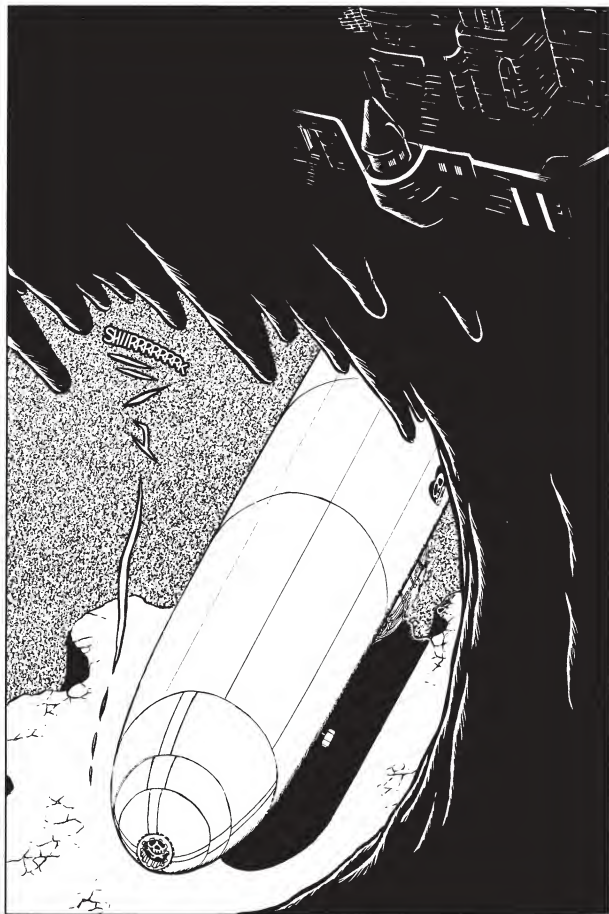


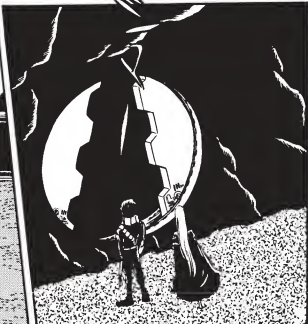
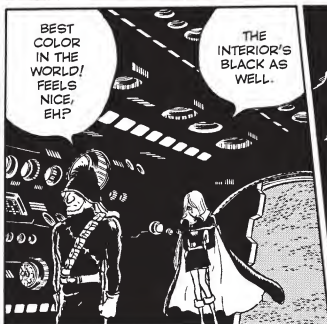
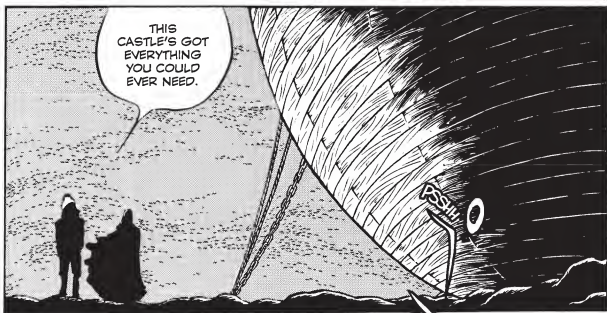
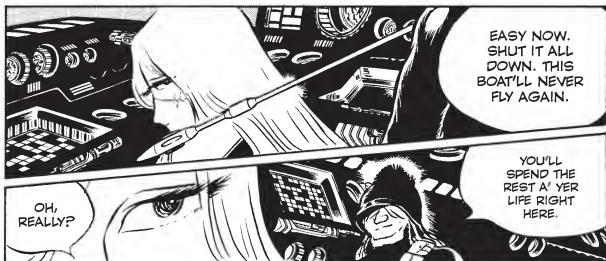
I'LL MAKE
ANY PLANET
THAT DON'T
SUBMIT TO ME
A HOLE IN
SPACE!!



ZZZZZZZZ





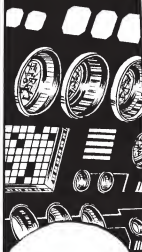




THIS IS MY
HOME! LIGHT
OR DARK, IT
DON'T MAKE A
DIFFERENCE! I
COULD WALK
IT BLIND-
FOLDED.

I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU CAN
NAVIGATE IN
THIS DARK-
NESS, DEATH
SKULL.





YOU BOAST
ABOUT BEING
ACCUSTOMED TO
THE DARKNESS,
YET YOU REQUIRE
A RADAR, DEATH
SKULL?



THAT'S HOW
IT'S GONNA
BE? FINE.
MY HELMET
RADAR KNOWS
WHERE YA ARE,
ANYWAY.

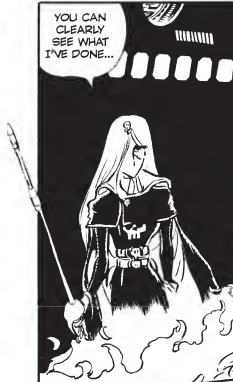


TABLE'S
SET WITH
WINE AND
VITTLES!!



SOMETHING
WRONG?
WHY'RE
YOU NOT
COMING IN?





YOU CAN
CLEARLY
SEE WHAT
I'VE DONE...



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!



YOU ALSO MADE
THE MISTAKE OF SO
WILLINGLY ENTERING
THE AIRLOCK OF THE
QUEEN EMERALDAS,
WHICH I DELIBERATELY
ALLOWED YOU
TO OPEN.



GUESS I MESSED
UP BY NOT TAKIN'
YOUR GRAVITY-
SABER. I WAS
BEIN' TOO
SWEET ON YA.



WH-
WHAT?

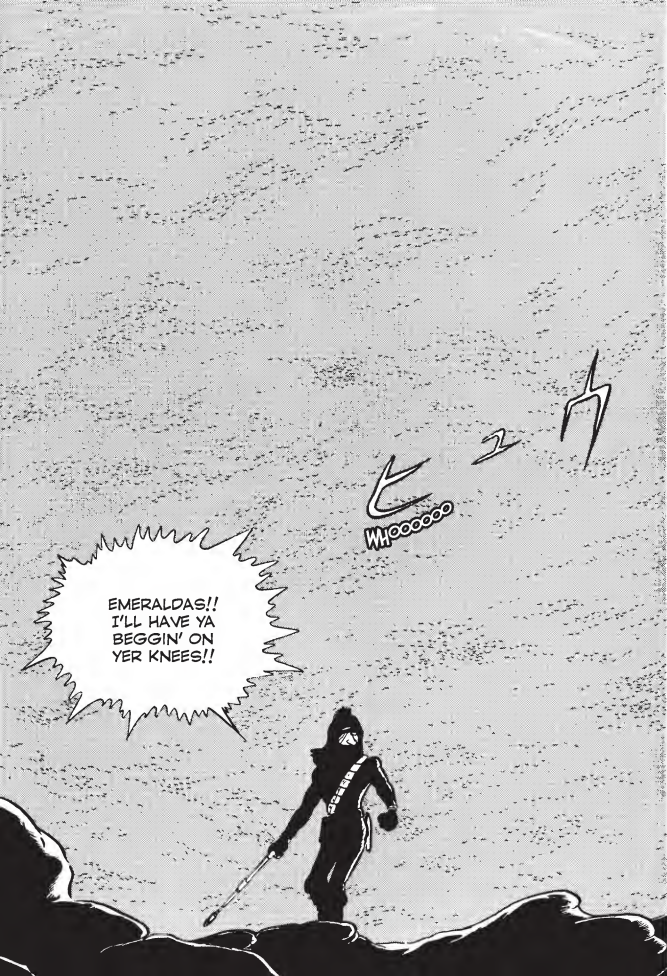


JUST PART
OF MY PLAN
TO HAVE YOU
BRING ME HERE,
DEATH SKULL!!



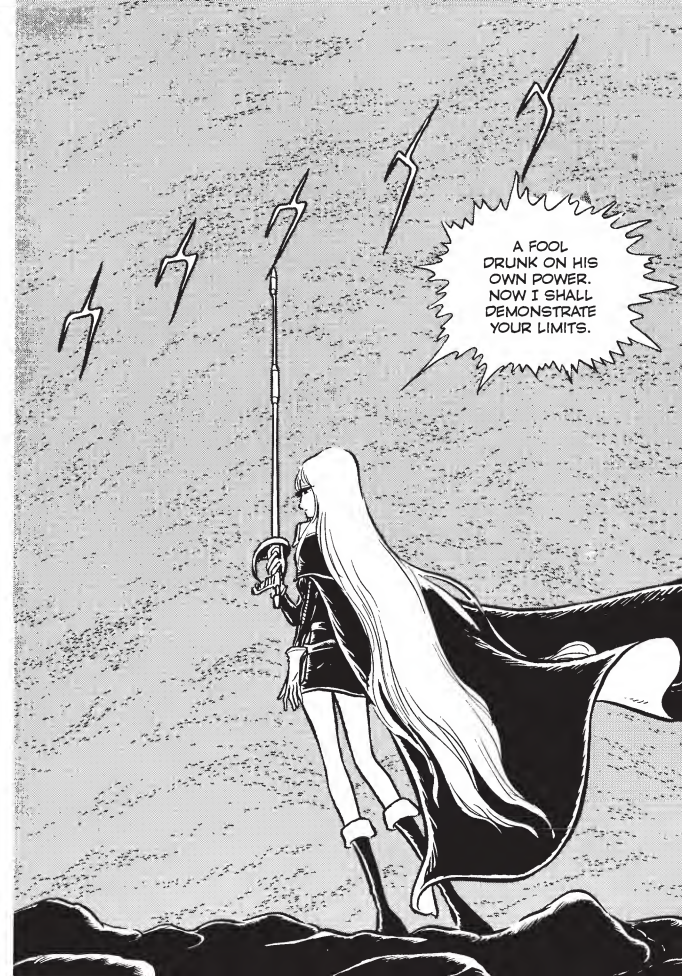
N-N-
NONSENSE!!





EMERALDAS!!
I'LL HAVE YA
BEGGIN' ON
YER KNEES!!

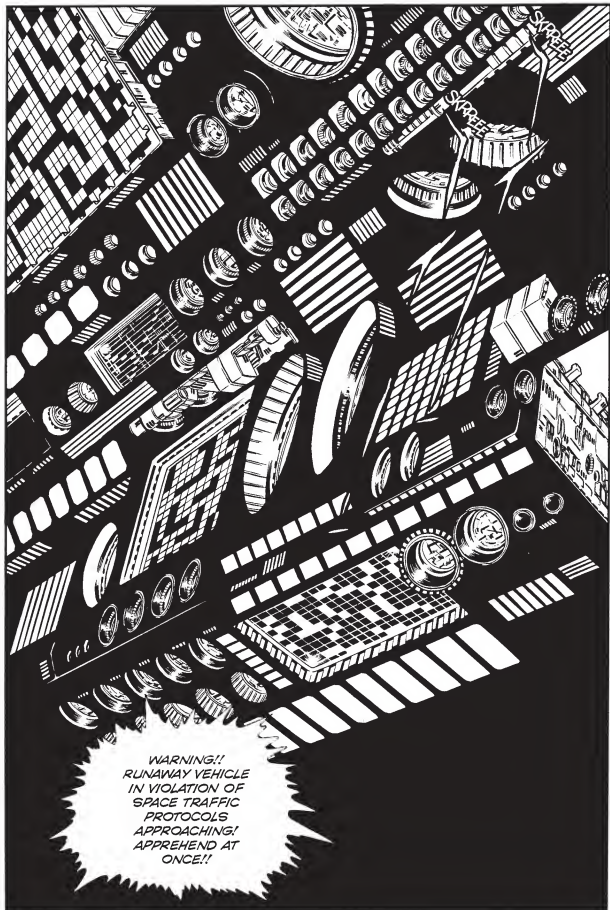
Whooooo



A FOOL
DRUNK ON HIS
OWN POWER.
NOW I SHALL
DEMONSTRATE
YOUR LIMITS.



I AM EMERALDAS. THAT
DAY, ON THE DARK PLANET
OF ALLOSaurus, I SAW THE
BLACK BLOOD OF FOOLS FLOWING
LIKE A RIVER. I AM EMERALDAS.
AND I DO NOT SUFFER THOSE WHO
PLAY WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

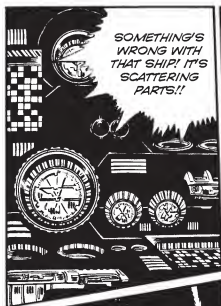


**WARNING!!
RUNAWAY VEHICLE
IN VIOLATION OF
SPACE TRAFFIC
PROTOCOLS
APPROACHING!
APPREHEND AT
ONCE!!**











I'M NOT
RUNNING
ON PURPOSE.
I JUST CAN'T
STOP!!



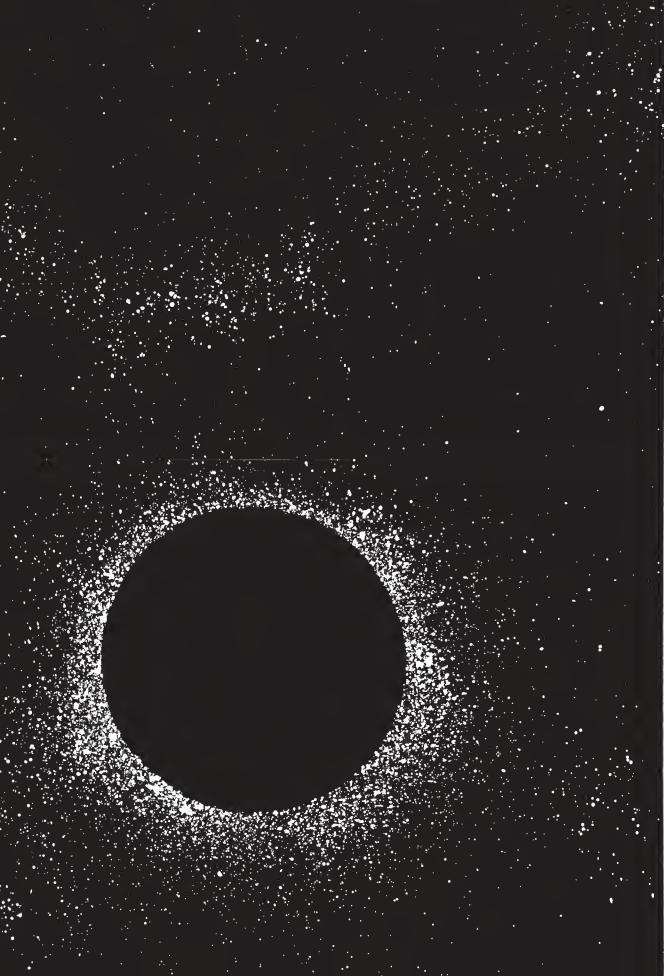
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

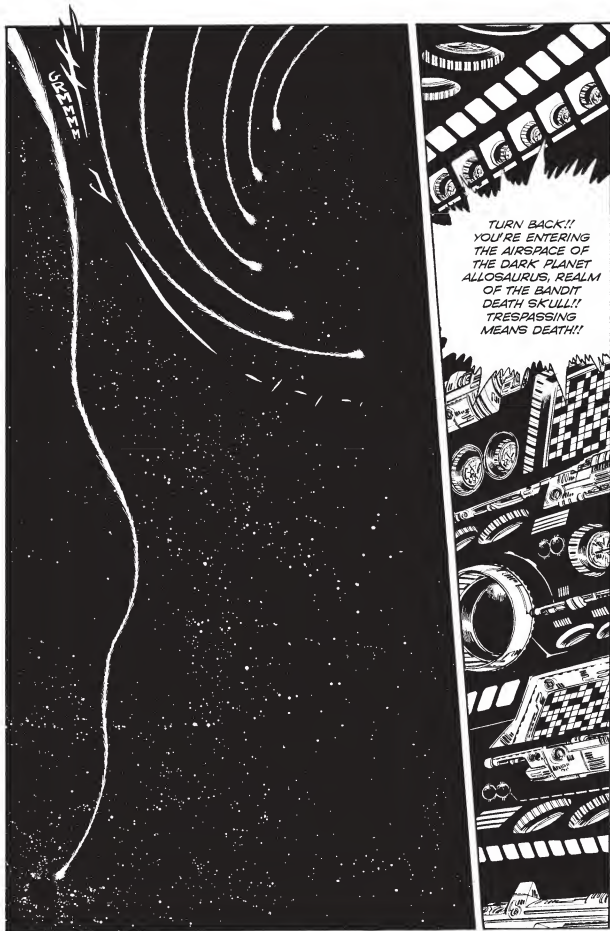


MUST BE
NEAR A
PLANET!!

CRAP!
THE GRAVI-
TATIONAL
SENSORS
ARE GOING
OFF!





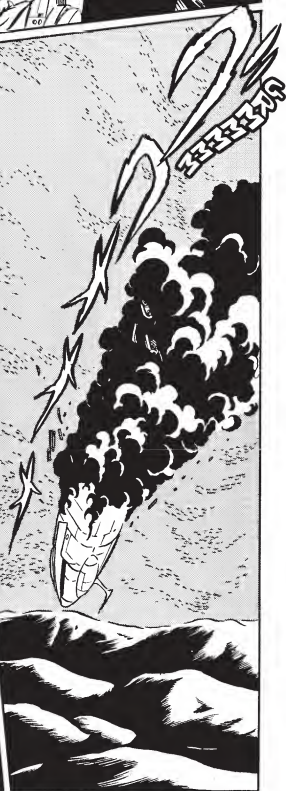
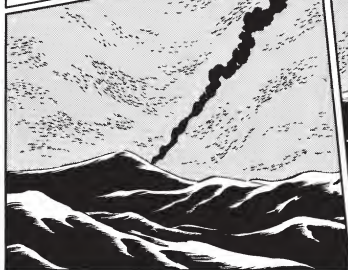
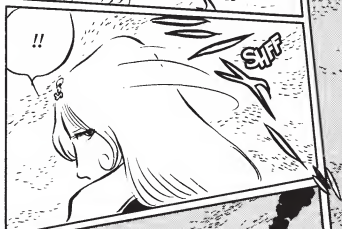
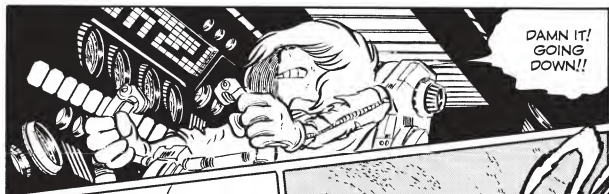


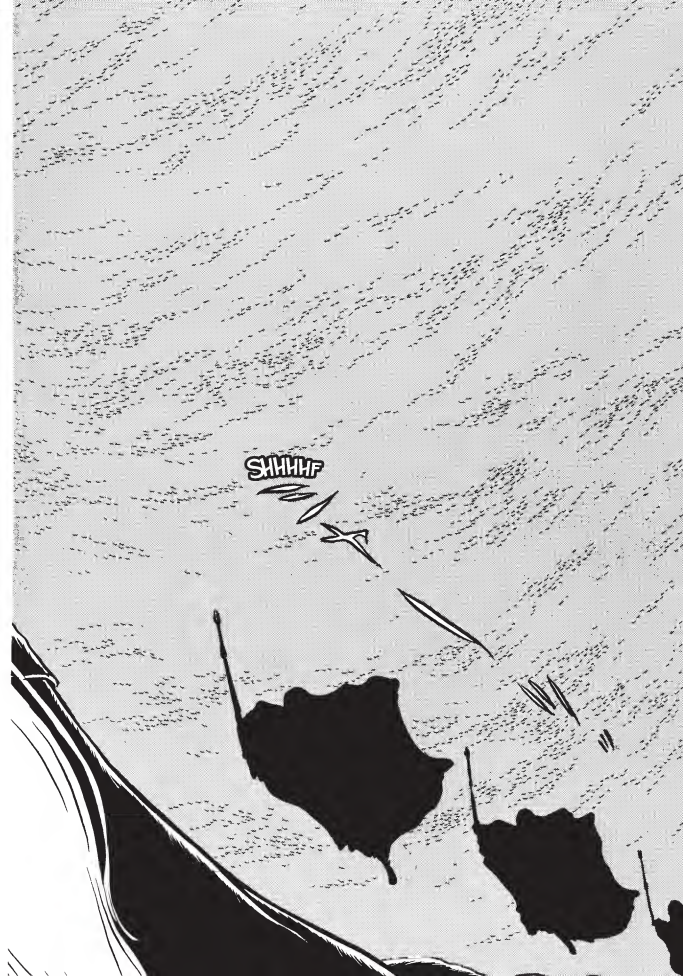
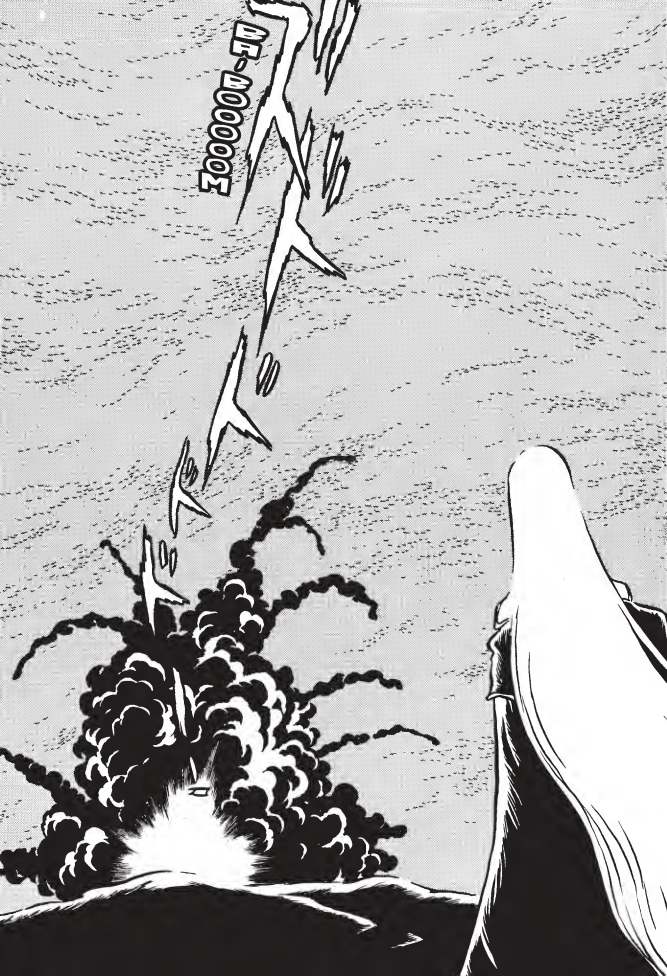
TURN BACK!!
YOU'RE ENTERING
THE AIRSPACE OF
THE DARK PLANET
ALLOSaurus, REALM
OF THE BANDIT
DEATH SKULL!!
TRESPASSING
MEANS DEATH!!











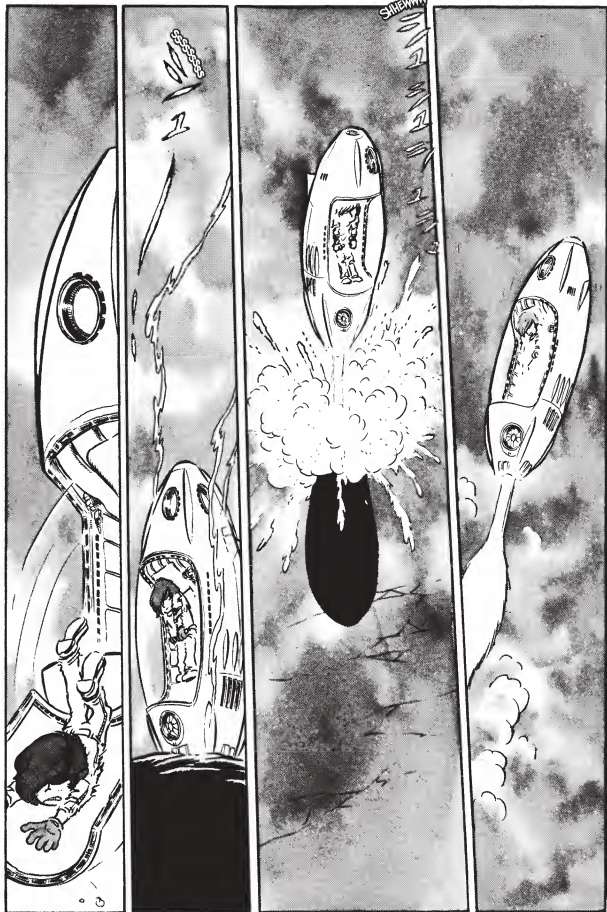


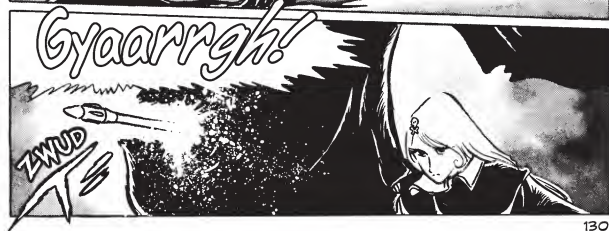
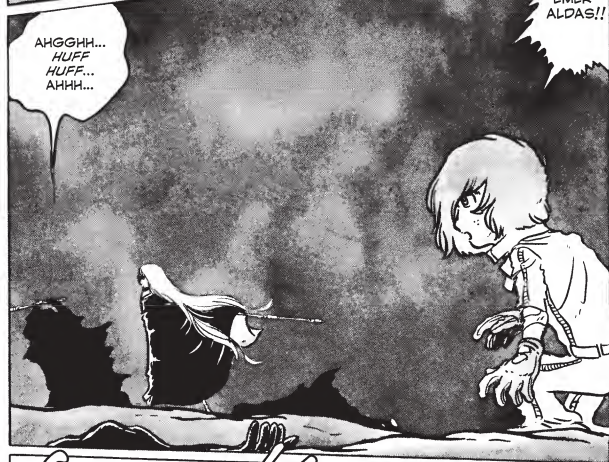
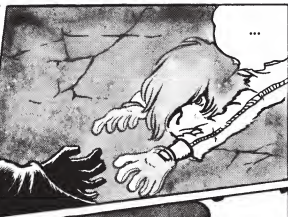
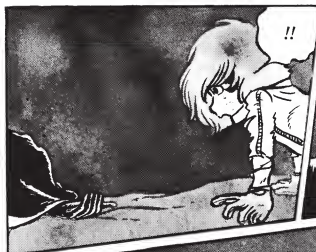


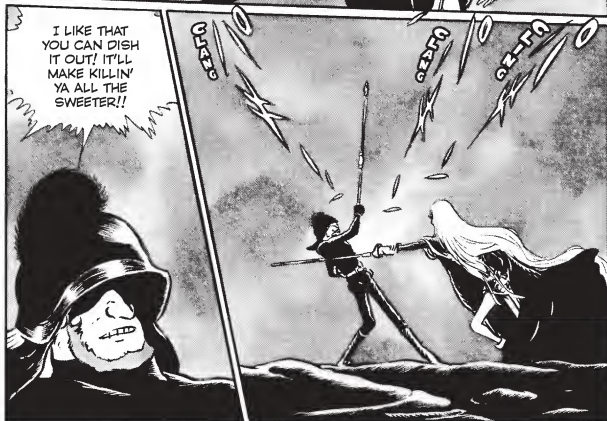
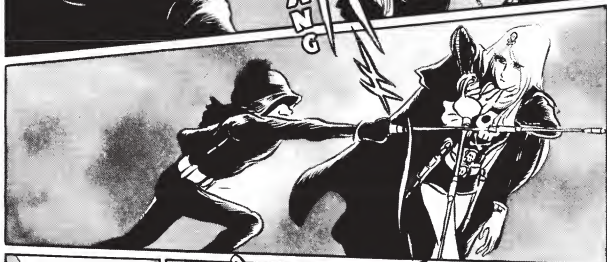
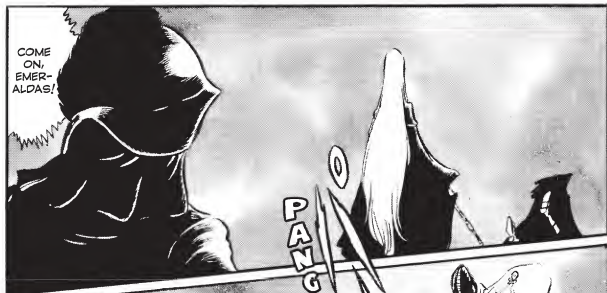




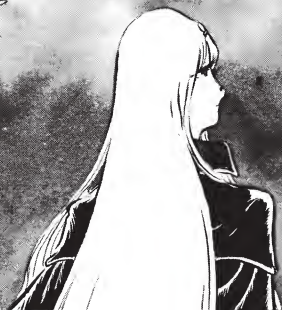


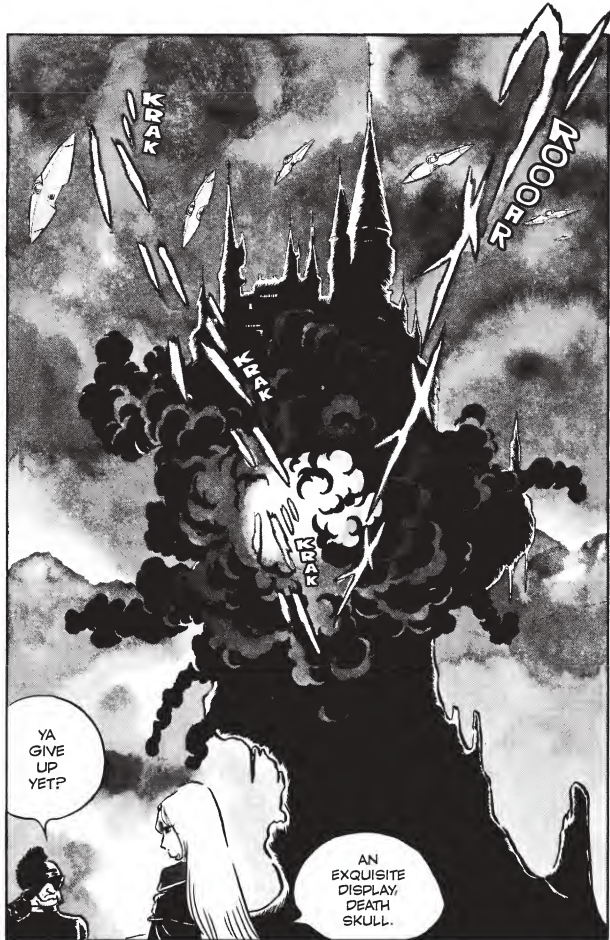






I'LL START
WITH THAT
PRECIOUS SHIP
A' YOURS!
WATCH IT TURN
TA ASH!!





KARK

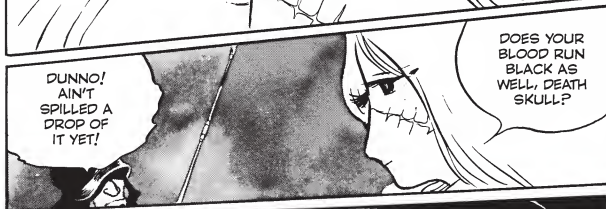
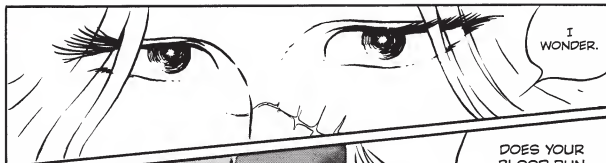
KOOOOR

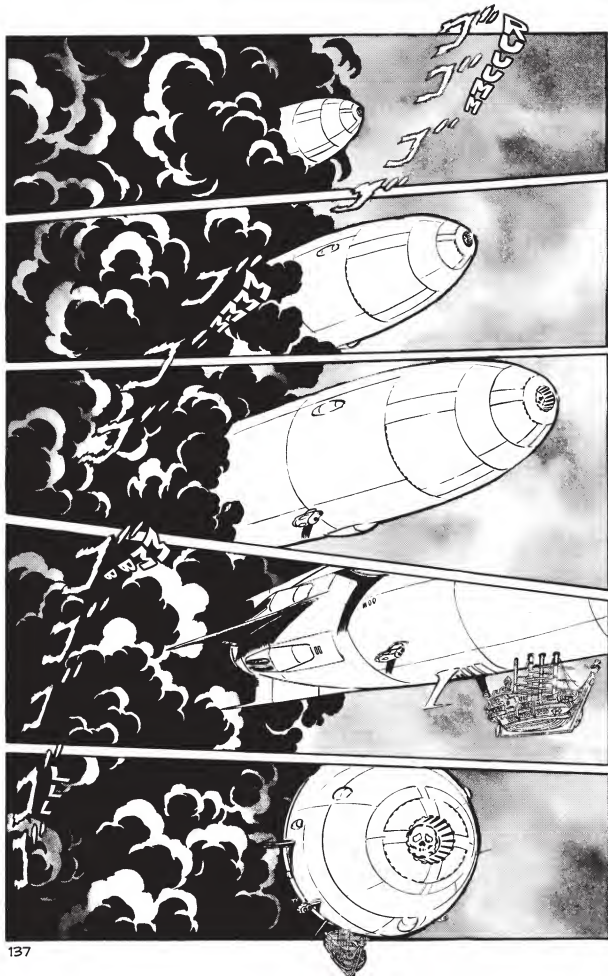
KARK

KARK

YA
GIVE
UP
YET?

AN
EXQUISITE
DISPLAY,
DEATH
SKULL.









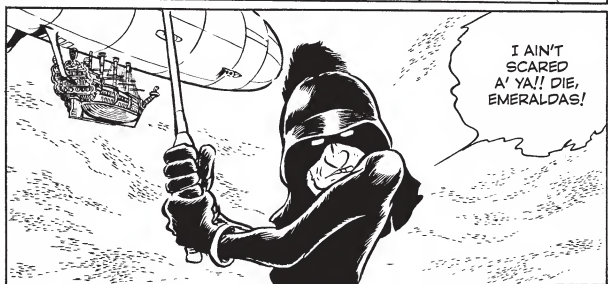




NOW YOU
WILL FIND
THIS WITCH'S
BLOOD RUNS
COLD.



HAVE
AT YOU,
DEATH
SKULL!



I AIN'T
SCARED
A' YA!! DIE,
EMERALDAS!

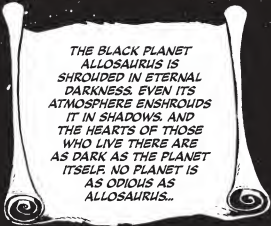


GOT NO
USE FOR
REGRETS!
THAT'S WHAT
HAVING POWER
MEANS!!

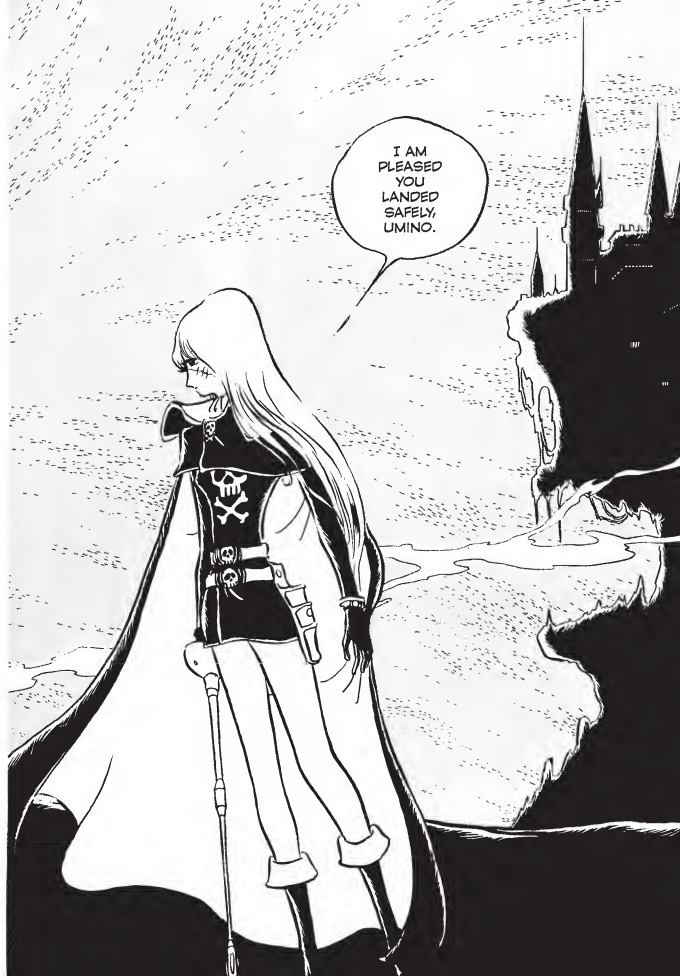
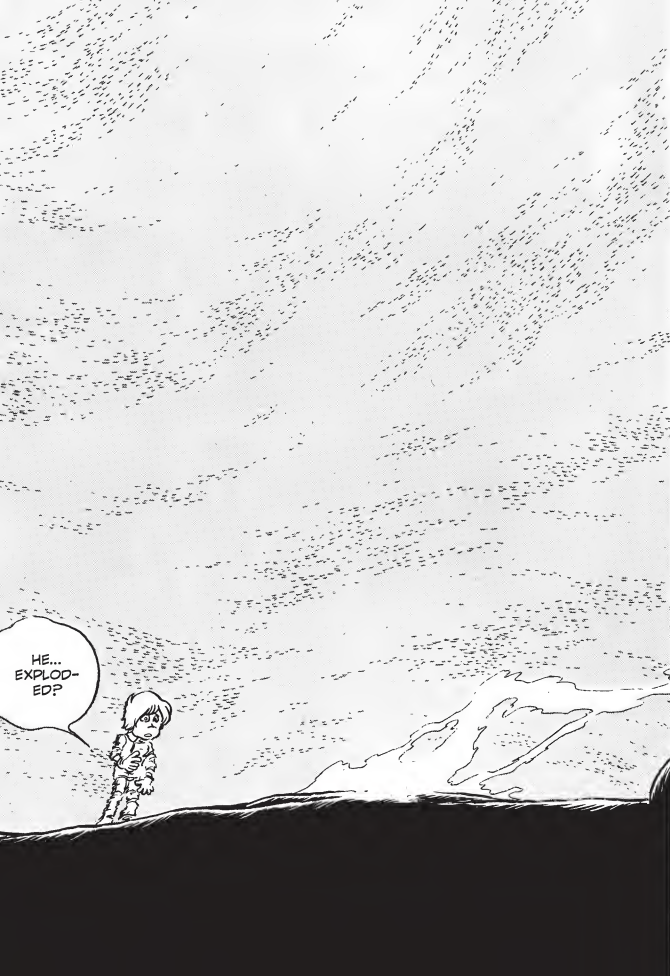


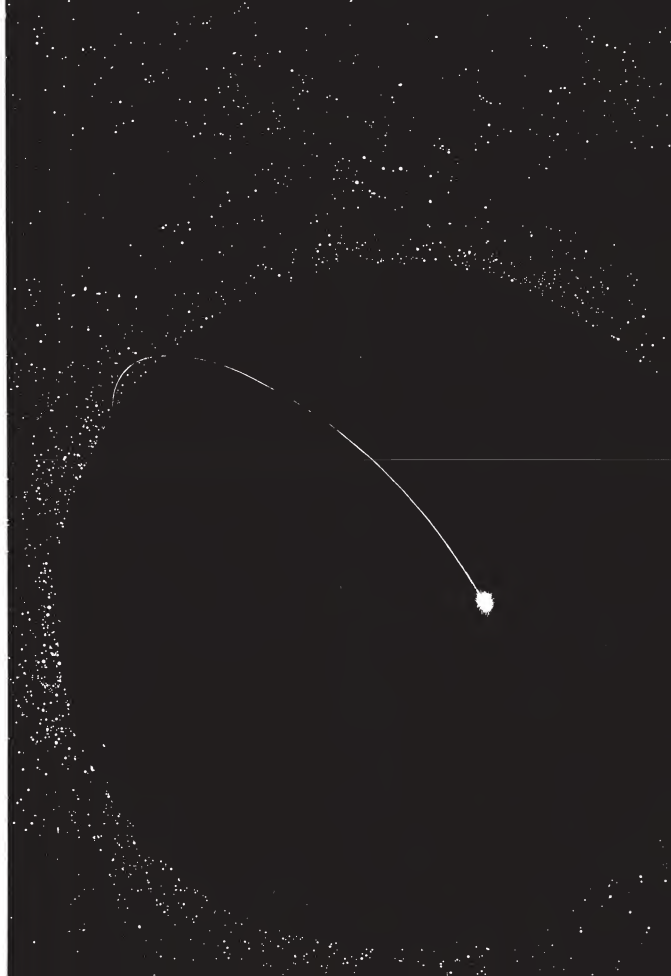
YOU CANNOT HALT
TIME, DEATH SKULL!!
AND IT WILL BE TOO
LATE FOR REGRETS
WHEN YOU LIE BLEEDING
ON THE GROUND.

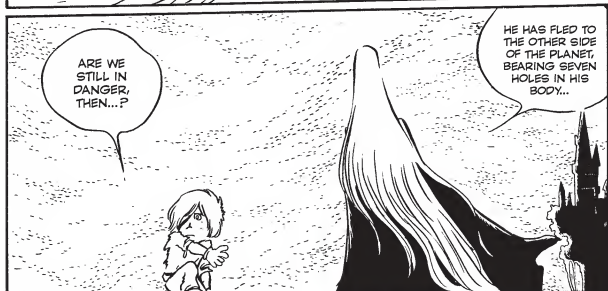
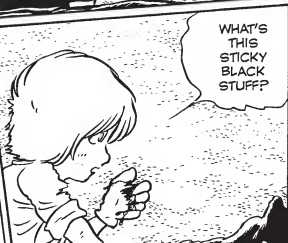
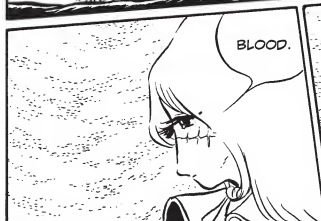




THE BLACK PLANET
ALLOSAURUS IS
SHROUDED IN ETERNAL
DARKNESS. EVEN ITS
ATMOSPHERE ENSHROUDS
IT IN SHADOWS. AND
THE HEARTS OF THOSE
WHO LIVE THERE ARE
AS DARK AS THE PLANET
ITSELF. NO PLANET IS
AS OPIOUS AS
ALLOSAURUS...



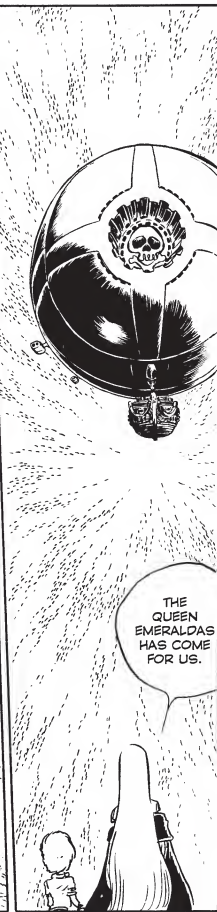
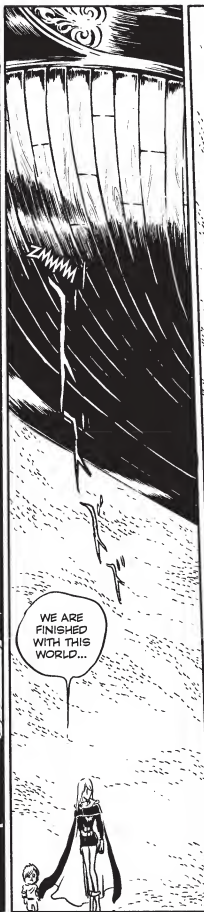
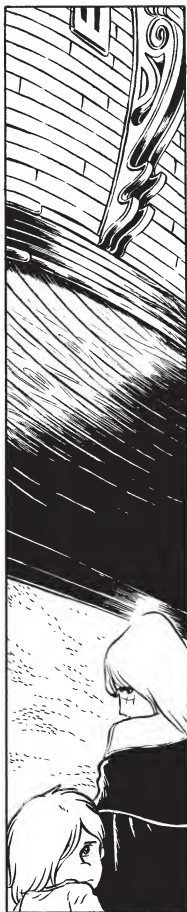


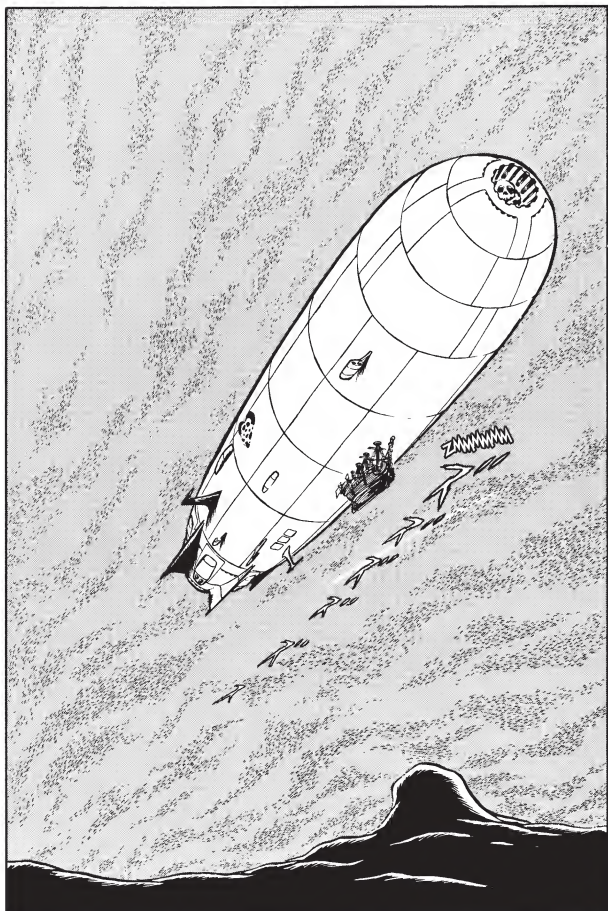


I ALLOWED
DEATH SKULL
ONTO MY SHIP,
INTENDING
THAT HE LEAD
ME HERE...

THERE IS
NO MORE
DANGER
HERE.

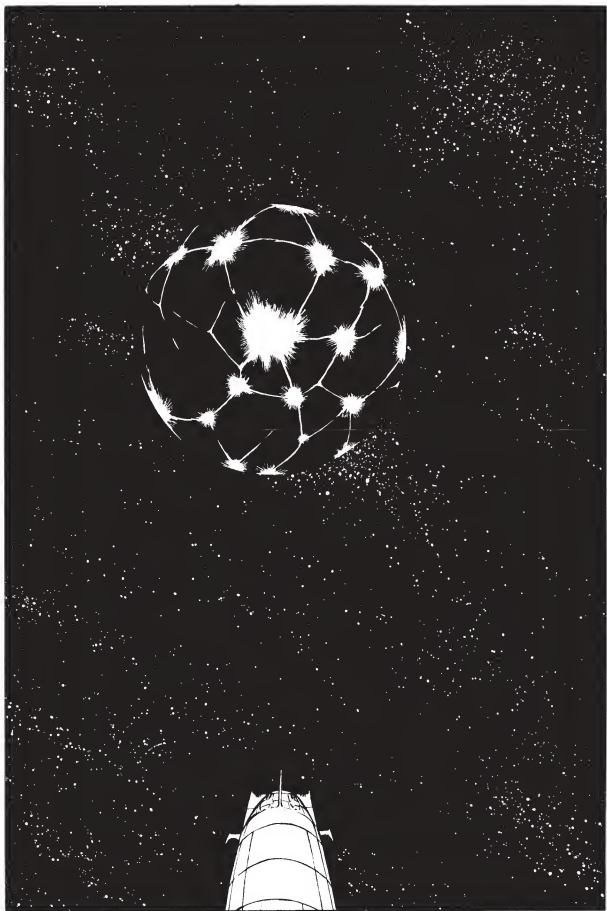
OH.



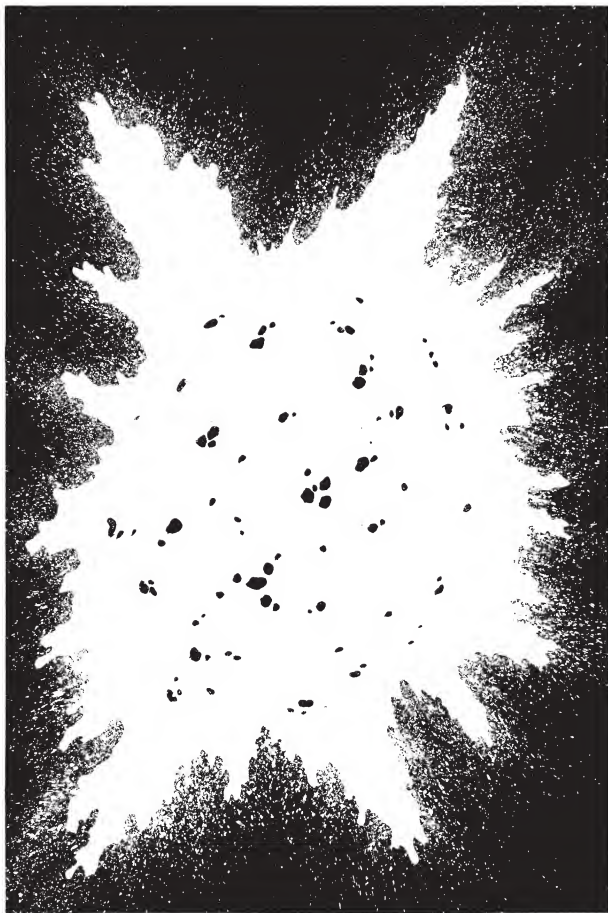


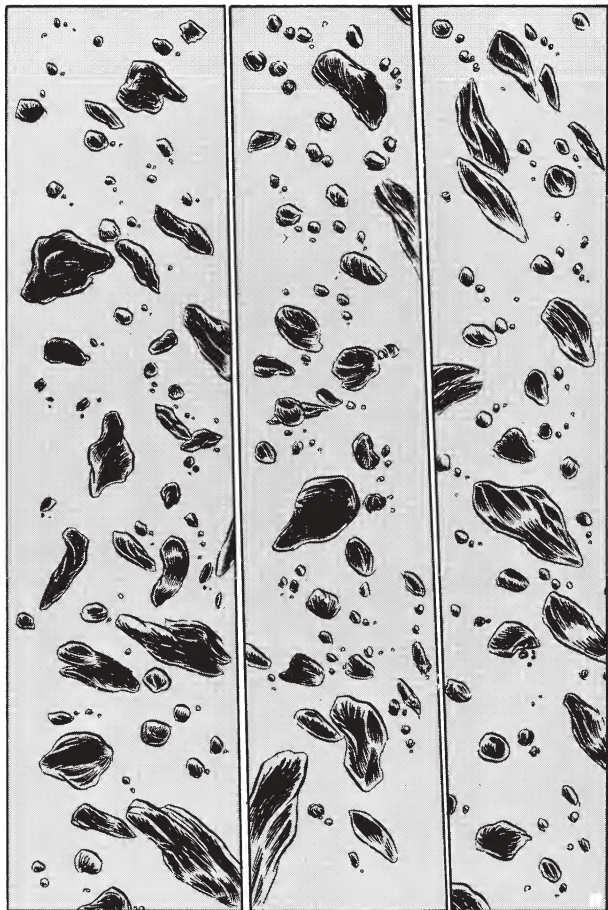


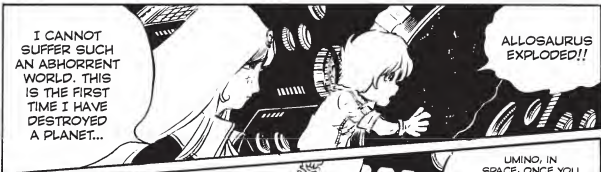










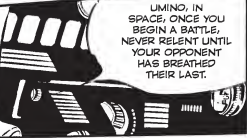


I CANNOT
SUFFER SUCH
AN ABHORRENT
WORLD. THIS
IS THE FIRST
TIME I HAVE
DESTROYED
A PLANET...

ALLOSAURUS
EXPLODED!!



THE MOMENT
YOU SHOW
THEM PITY, THAT
IS WHEN THEY
KILL YOU.

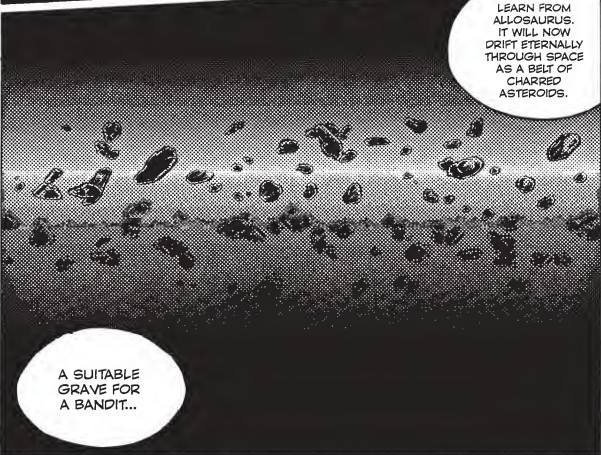


UMINO, IN
SPACE, ONCE YOU
BEGIN A BATTLE,
NEVER RELENT UNTIL
YOUR OPPONENT
HAS BREATHED
THEIR LAST.



IT
REMAINS
TRUE.

I'VE
HEARD
THAT
BEFORE.

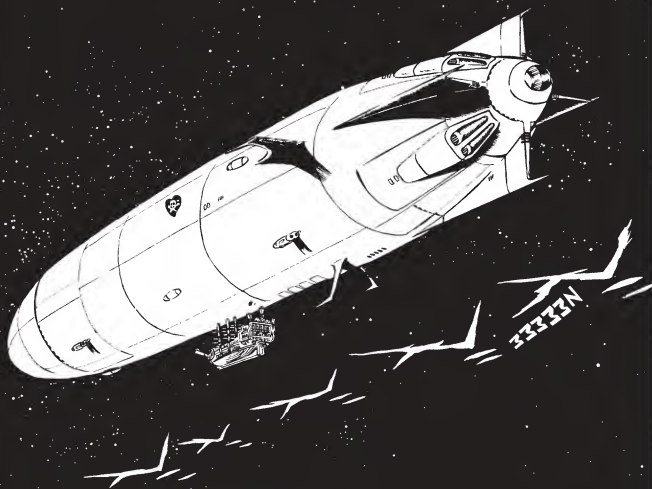


LEARN FROM
ALLOSAURUS.
IT WILL NOW
DRIFT ETERNALLY
THROUGH SPACE
AS A BELT OF
CHARRED
ASTEROIDS.

A SUITABLE
GRAVE FOR
A BANDIT...

I AM EMERALDAS...
AND I NOW REALIZE
I MAY BE BOUND TO
HIROSHI UMINO BY
TIES OF FATE.
DESTINY COMPELS
US TO TRAVEL THE
OCEAN OF STARS
TOGETHER. JUST AS
I AM BOUND TO
THE MAN I AM
SEARCHING FOR...

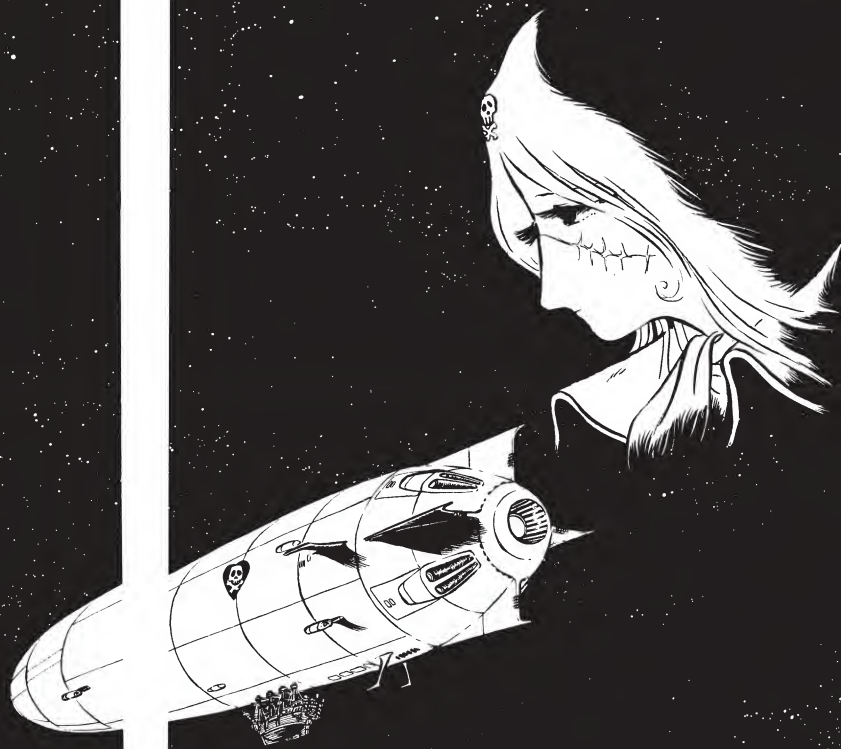


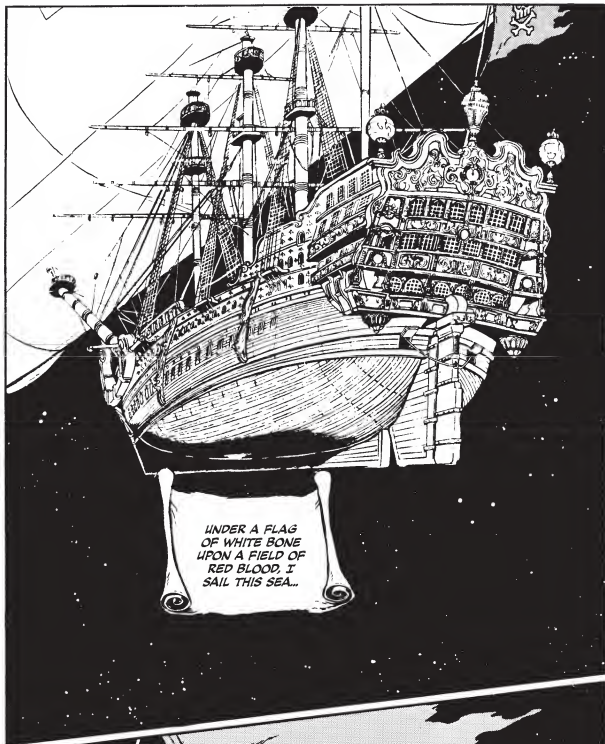


THE FIRST TRAVELERS
INTO SPACE WROTE OF
DROWNING IN THE
VASTNESS OF INFINITY,
TO THE POINT WHERE IT
SEEMS TIME CEASES TO EXIST.
HOWEVER, THOSE TRAVELERS
STILL AGE. THEY GROW
OLD. THEY DIE...



I AM EMERALDAS.
TOGETHER WITH MY SHIP
THE QUEEN EMERALDAS,
I SHALL WANDER THE
TENEBROUS VOID OF
SPACE UNTIL TIME
STANDS STILL, AND THE
FLAME OF MY LIFE
IS EXTINGUISHED.





UNDER A FLAG
OF WHITE BONE
UPON A FIELD OF
RED BLOOD, I
SAIL THIS SEA...



NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT
SAD AND BITTER
MEMORIES ARE
BORNE BY THIS
BLOOD RED
FLAG...

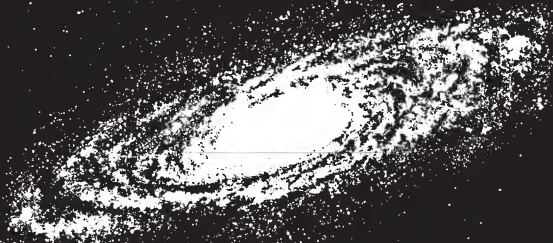




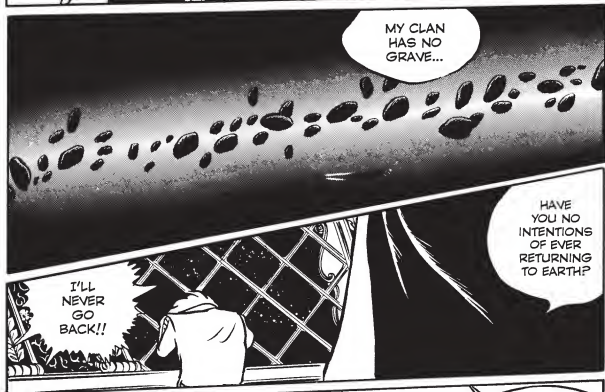
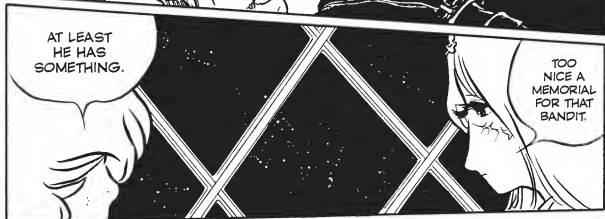
A FLAG TORN
APART, BIT BY BIT,
AS OUR VOYAGE
IS EVER PROLONGED,
BECOMING PIECES
OF RED, COSMIC
DUST, DRIFTING
IN SPACE...



A DAY WILL COME
WHEN THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS AND I
DISSOLVE INTO THIS
BOUNDLESS SEA.
LIKE THAT FLAG...

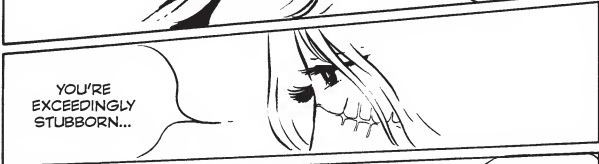








I GOTTA
WORK MORE.
GET ENOUGH
TO BUILD
ANOTHER
SHIP.



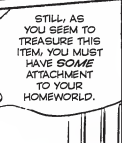
YOU'RE
EXCEEDINGLY
STUBBORN...



...ARE
YOU NOT,
HIROSHI
UMINO...?



WHEN
DID
YOU...?



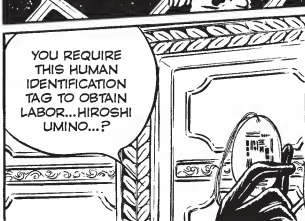
STILL, AS
YOU SEEM TO
TREASURE THIS
ITEM, YOU MUST
HAVE *SOME*
ATTACHMENT
TO YOUR
HOMEWORLD.



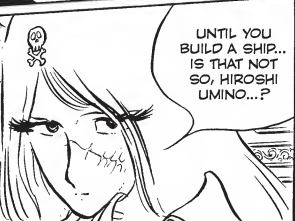
FINE!! I
NEED MY I.D.
TAG TO GET
WORK IN THE
COLONIES!!



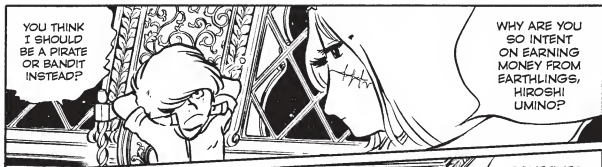
YOU DROPPED
IT IN THE SAND,
AFTER EXITING
YOUR ESCAPE
CAPSULE...



YOU REQUIRE
THIS HUMAN
IDENTIFICATION
TAG TO OBTAIN
LABOR...HIROSHI
UMINO...?

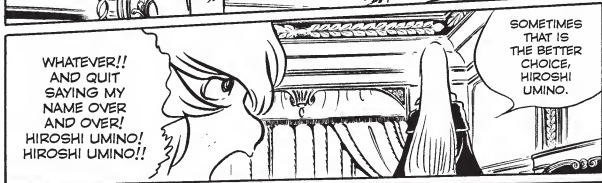


UNTIL YOU
BUILD A SHIP...
IS THAT NOT
SO, HIROSHI
UMINO...?



YOU THINK
I SHOULD
BE A PIRATE
OR BANDIT
INSTEAD?

WHY ARE YOU
SO INTENT
ON EARNING
MONEY FROM
EARTHLINGS,
HIROSHI
UMINO?



WHATEVER!!
AND QUIT
SAYING MY
NAME OVER
AND OVER!
HIROSHI UMINO!
HIROSHI UMINO!!

SOMETIMES
THAT IS
THE BETTER
CHOICE,
HIROSHI
UMINO.



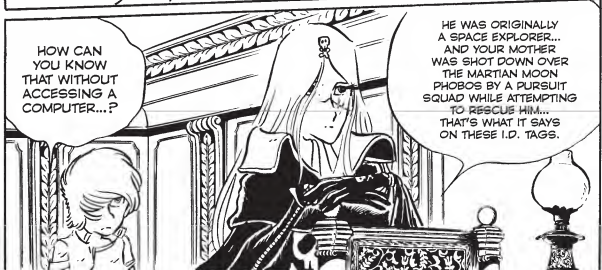
ZERO
BANNO?

OH?
SHOULD I
CALL YOU BY
YOUR REAL
NAME...?



YOUR
FATHER WAS
EXECUTED
FOR INCITING
A LABOR CAMP
RIOT ON A
MARTIAN
COLONY.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?!

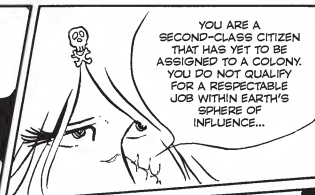


HOW CAN
YOU KNOW
THAT WITHOUT
ACCESSING A
COMPUTER...?

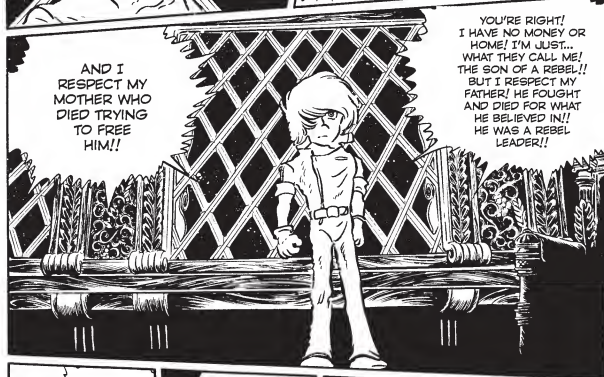
HE WAS ORIGINALLY
A SPACE EXPLORER...
AND YOUR MOTHER
WAS SHOT DOWN OVER
THE MARTIAN MOON
PHOBOS BY A PURSUIT
SQUAD WHILE ATTEMPTING
TO RESCUE HIM...
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS
ON THESE I.D. TAGS.



...



YOU ARE A
SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN
THAT HAS YET TO BE
ASSIGNED TO A COLONY.
YOU DO NOT QUALIFY
FOR A RESPECTABLE
JOB WITHIN EARTH'S
SPHERE OF
INFLUENCE...



AND I
RESPECT MY
MOTHER WHO
DIED TRYING
TO FREE
HIM!!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
I HAVE NO MONEY OR
HOME! I'M JUST...
WHAT THEY CALL ME!
THE SON OF A REBEL!!
BUT I RESPECT MY
FATHER! HE FOUGHT
AND DIED FOR WHAT
HE BELIEVED IN!!
HE WAS A REBEL
LEADER!!



AND I'M
PROUD
OF IT!!

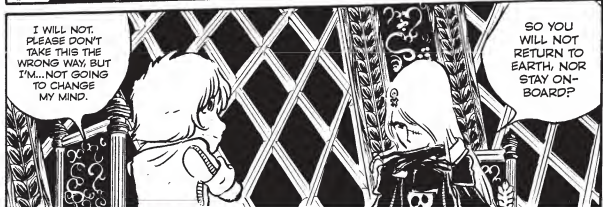
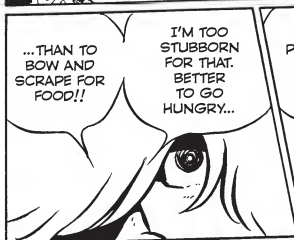
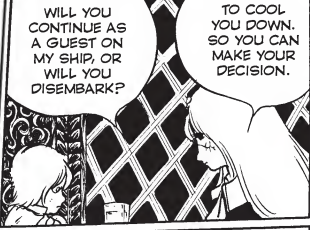


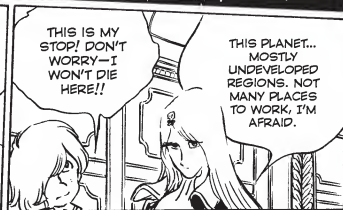
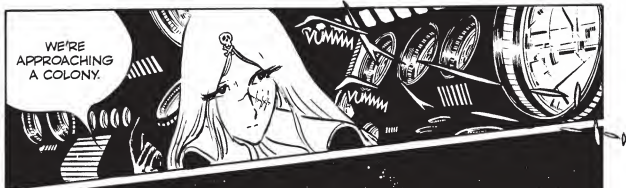
THE
BLOOD OF
WARRIORS
FLOWS
THROUGH
MY
VEINS!!



A SON
THEY
RAISED TO
BE FREE
AND NOT
BOW MY
HEAD TO
ANYONE!!

I AM MY
PARENTS'
SON.

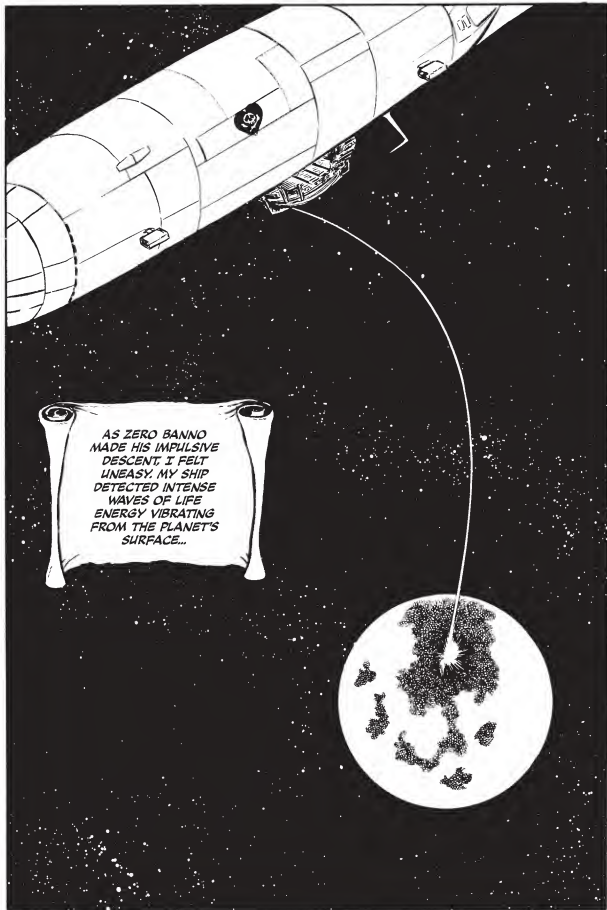




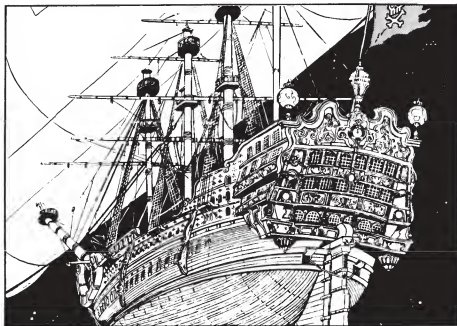


I'LL GIVE
THIS BACK,
AFTER I'VE
BUILT A
BETTER
ONE!

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO THAT DAY.
BE STRONG!



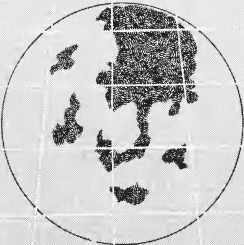
AS ZERO BANNO
MADE HIS IMPULSIVE
DESCENT, I FELT
UNEASY. MY SHIP
DETECTED INTENSE
WAVES OF LIFE
ENERGY VIBRATING
FROM THE PLANET'S
SURFACE...



WHAT?!
YOU SAY...
THIS PLANET
HAS NO
NAME?
OH, NO...!!

JUST THEN,
THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS'S
COMPUTER
INFORMED
ME OF VITAL
INFORMATION.

HIROSHI UMINO...
REAL NAME: ZERO BANNO...
FATHERED BY A REBEL EXPLORER,
THIS YOUNG MAN DESCENDED TO
THE COLONIAL WORLD WITHOUT
HESITATION... YET AS I SAW
MYRIAD ENERGY WAVES
QUIVERING ACROSS THE
PLANET'S SURFACE, I WAS
FILLED WITH DREAD...



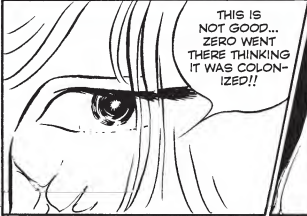
DATA
ON THIS
PLANET IS
BLANK...
NO RECORD
OF ORIGIN...
NO HISTORY...



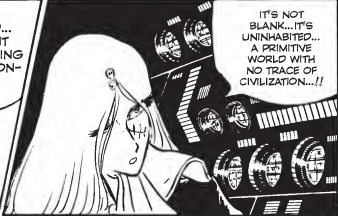
UNINHABITED...
AN UNCHARTED
PLANET...



FROM HIGH-
ALTITUDE READINGS...
I EXTRAPOLATE
A VERDANT
WORLD, LARGELY
UNEXPLORED...

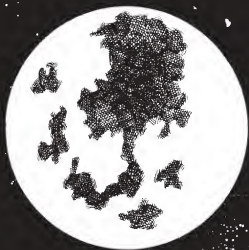


THIS IS
NOT GOOD...
ZERO WENT
THERE THINKING
IT WAS COLON-
IZED!!



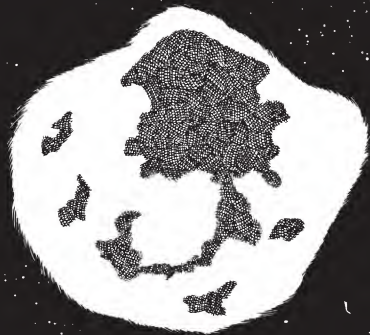
IT'S NOT
BLANK...IT'S
UNINHABITED...
A PRIMITIVE
WORLD WITH
NO TRACE OF
CIVILIZATION...!!

I HAD GIVEN HIM
INCORRECT DATA.
THIS WAS MY
RESPONSIBILITY...
I COULD NOT SIMPLY
ABANDON HIM AND
BE ON MY WAY...
I--AND MY SHIP--HAD
COMMITTED THE
SAME ERROR...



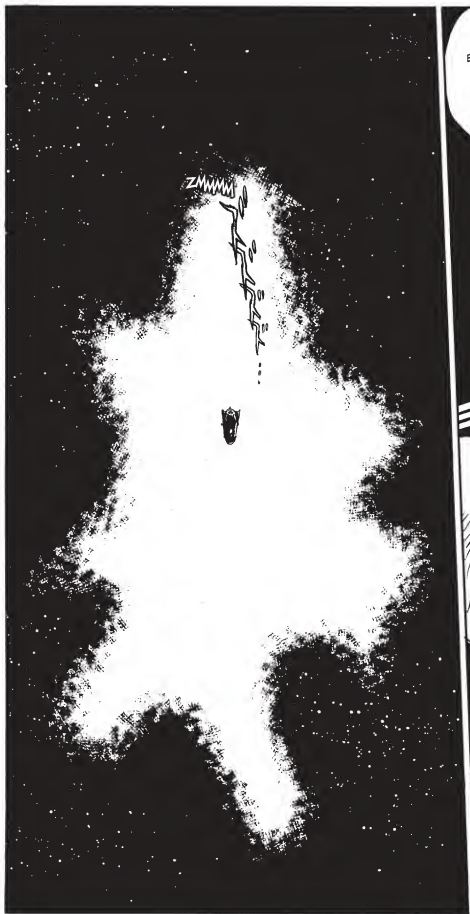


AS I MOVED
TO FACE THE
PLANET AGAIN,
I REALIZED
THIS WAS NO
ORDINARY
WORLD...

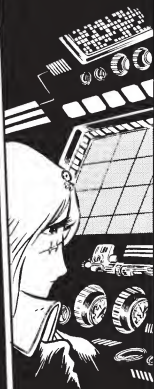


AS I
APPROACHED,
IT SHIMMERED LIKE
AN INSUBSTANTIAL
SHADOW...YET
THE PLANET WAS
MOST DEFINITELY
THERE...

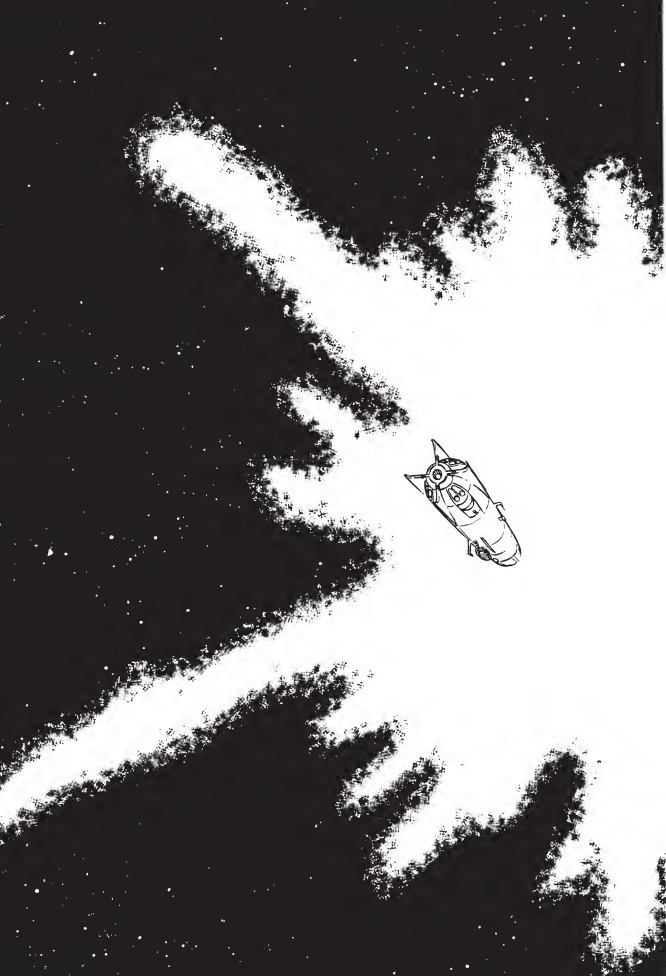




THERE ARE
RADAR AND
ENERGY READINGS...
APPEARANCE IS
UNSTABLE, BUT
THAT DOES NOT
MEAN THE PLANET
IS NON-EXTANT.



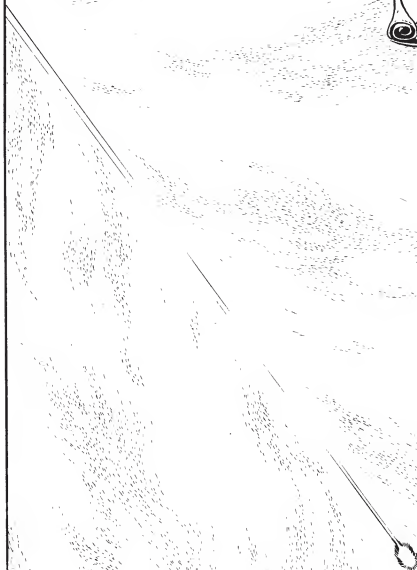
ATMOSPHERE
ENTRY IN 15
SECONDS...
12 MINUTES,
23 SECONDS
UNTIL TOUCH-
DOWN...



WHEN I
THOUGHT
OF THAT
BOY ON THIS
PLANET...MY
HEART BROKE...



HIS POD
COULD NOT
HAVE LANDED
SAFELY. IT
MUST HAVE
CRASHED.





INDEED, I WAS
NOW UNDER
THE CLOUDS...

BEEP

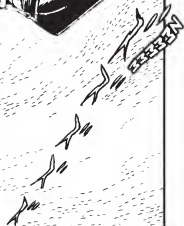
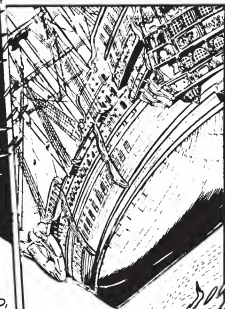
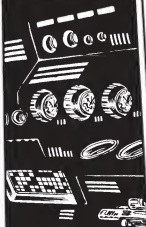
BEEP

BEEP

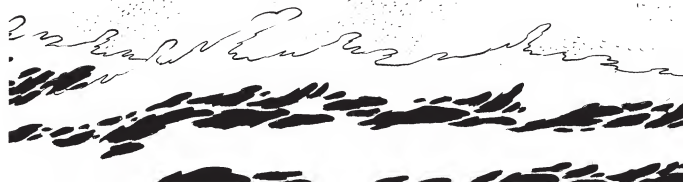
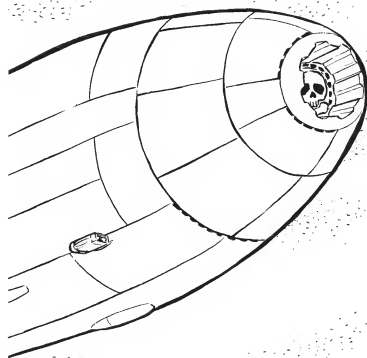
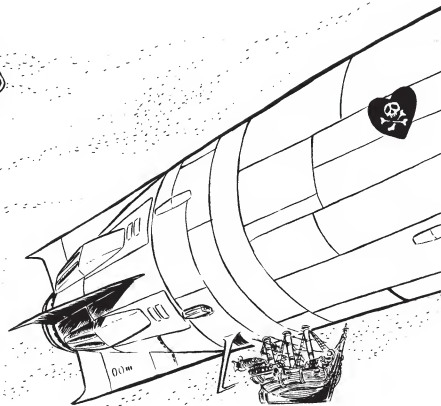
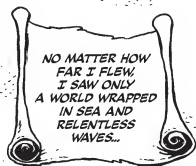
BEEP

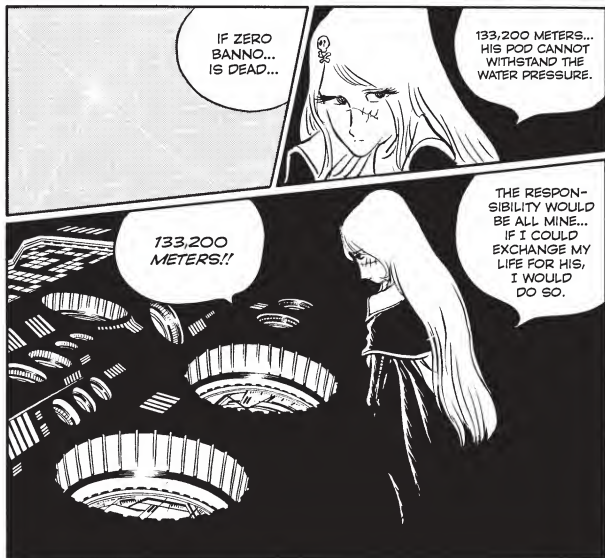
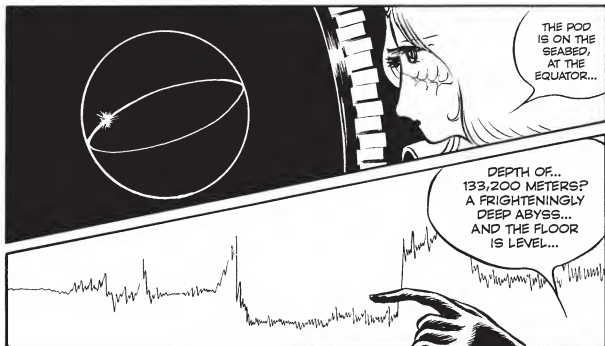
BEEP

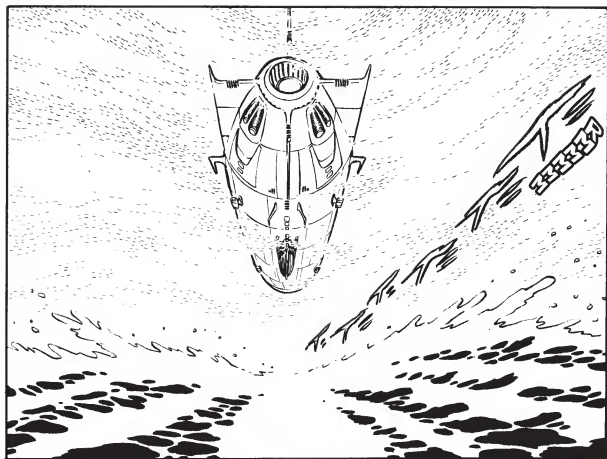
ANGLE OF
DESCENT:
30 DEGREES...
MINIMUM SPEED,
EXITING TROPO-
SPHERE...



AS I
DESCEND-
ED, THE
ATMOSPHERE
FLICKERED
LIKE
SILVERY
RAIN.

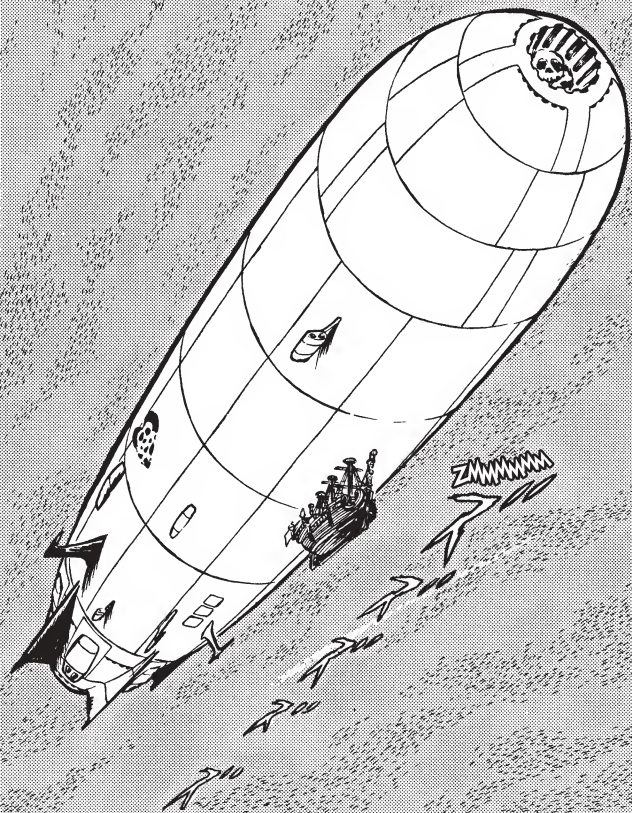


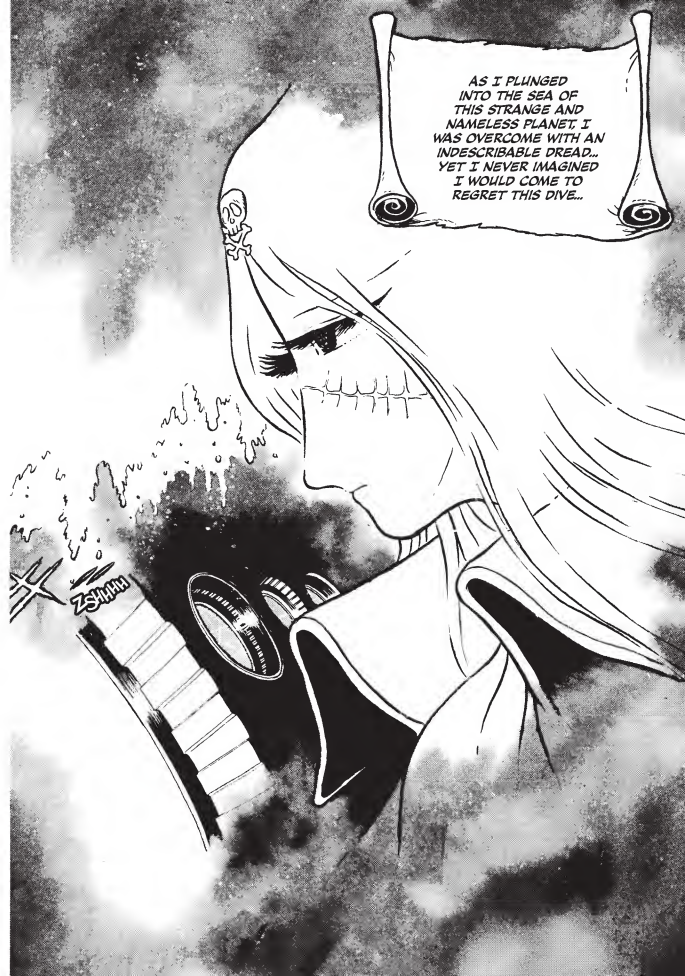
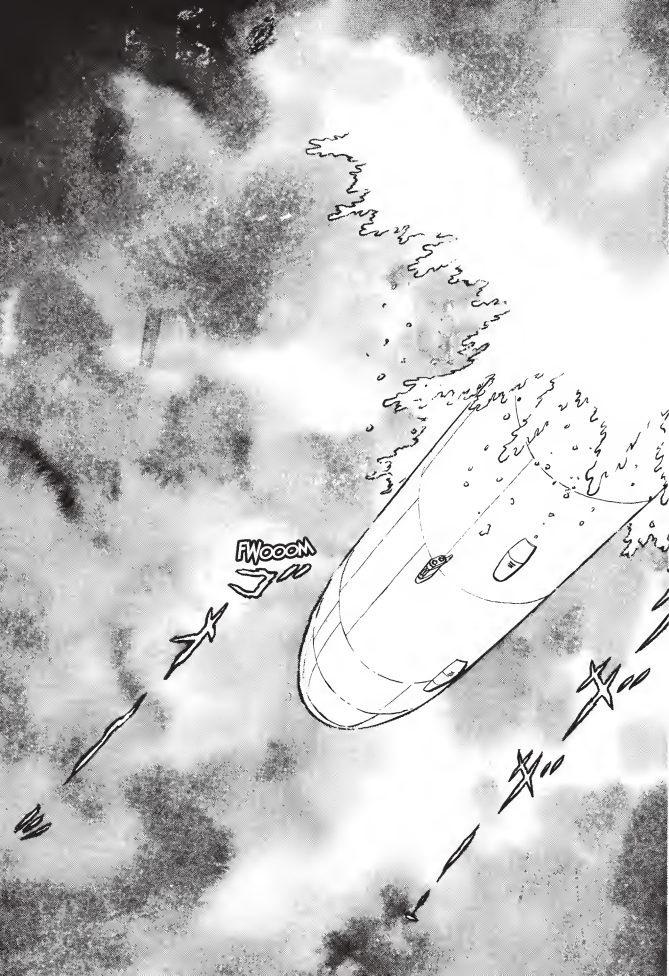




I AM EMERALDAS...
AND I UNDER-
ESTIMATED THIS
NAMELESS PLANET...
A SOLITARY WORLD,
ALONE IN THE OCEAN
OF STARS...ABSOLUTELY
BEYOND COMPARE,
AND MYSTERIOUS
BEYOND MEASURE.

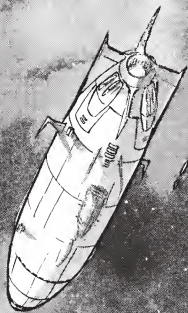


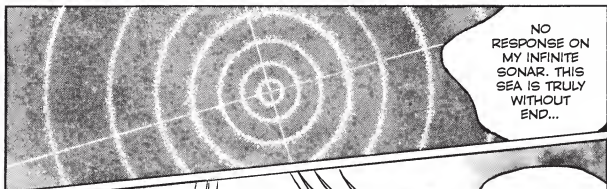




THE SEA WAS
FILLED WITH A
SOUND NOT UNLIKE
BOILING WATER. I
THOUGHT I WOULD
NEVER FIND THE
END OF THIS
BOTTOMLESS
OCEAN. IT WAS AN
INFINITY OF BLUE...

WOOOM





NO
RESPONSE ON
MY INFINITE
SONAR. THIS
SEA IS TRULY
WITHOUT
END...



WHERE COULD
HIROSHI UMINO—
NO, ZERO
BANNO—HAVE
SUNK IN THIS
SEA...?



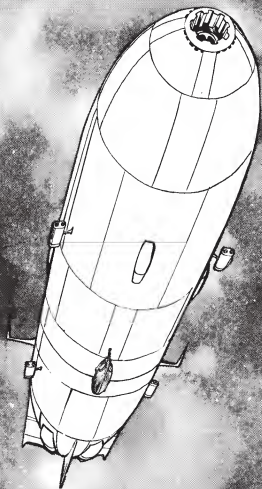
THE DEVICES
ACTED AS IF
EXHAUSTED,
AND GAVE UP
THE SEARCH.

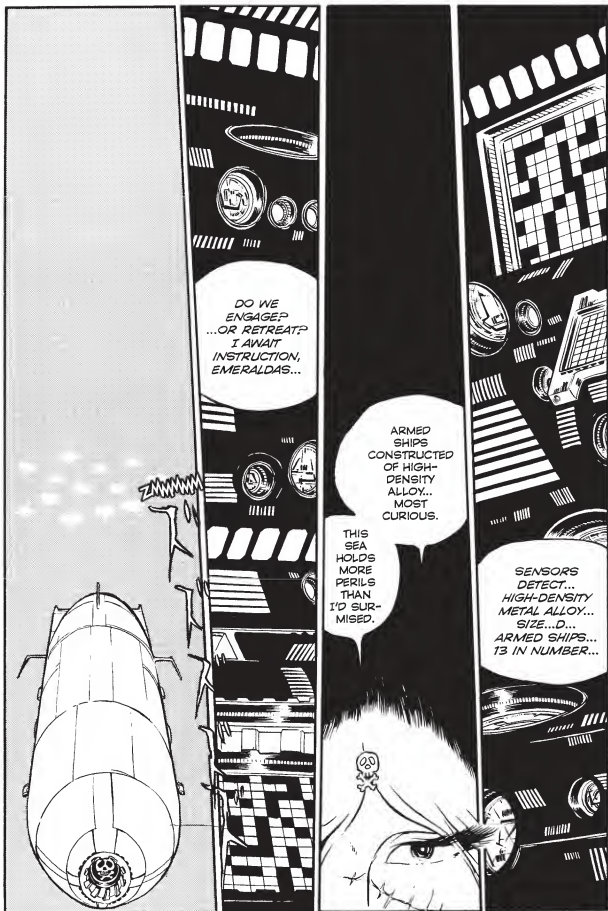
NONE OF
MY SHIP'S
SENSORS
COULD FIND
ANYTHING.



THIS SEA
WAS NO
DIFFERENT
FROM
SPACE.

SUDDENLY,
THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS
SPOKE TO ME...
WARNING
OF MULTIPLE
SHADOWS
GATHERING
BEHIND ME!!



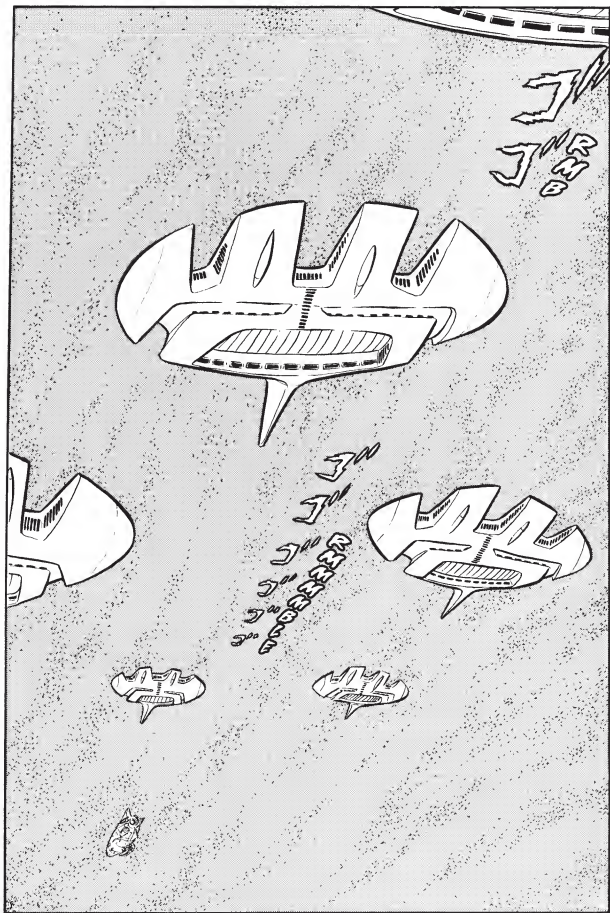


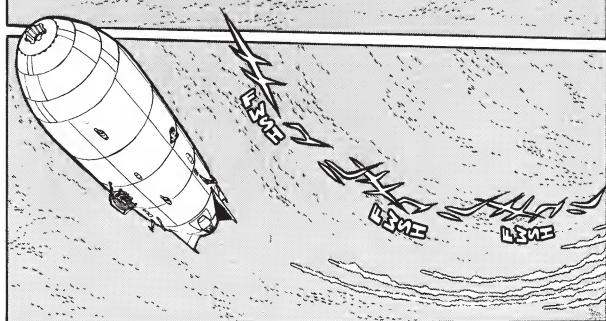
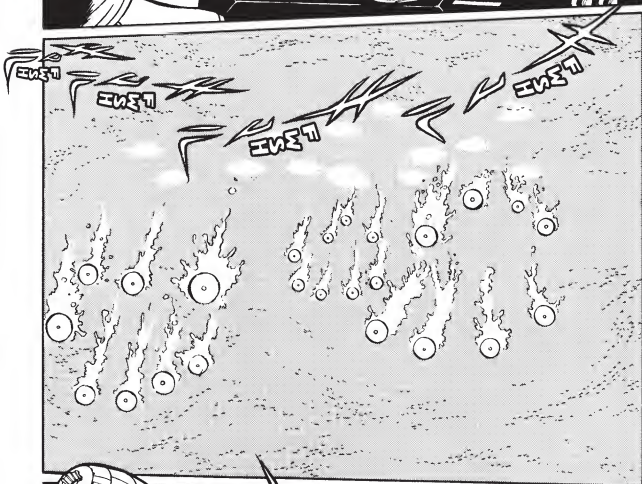
DO WE
ENGAGE?
...OR RETREAT?
I AWAIT
INSTRUCTION,
EMERALDAS...

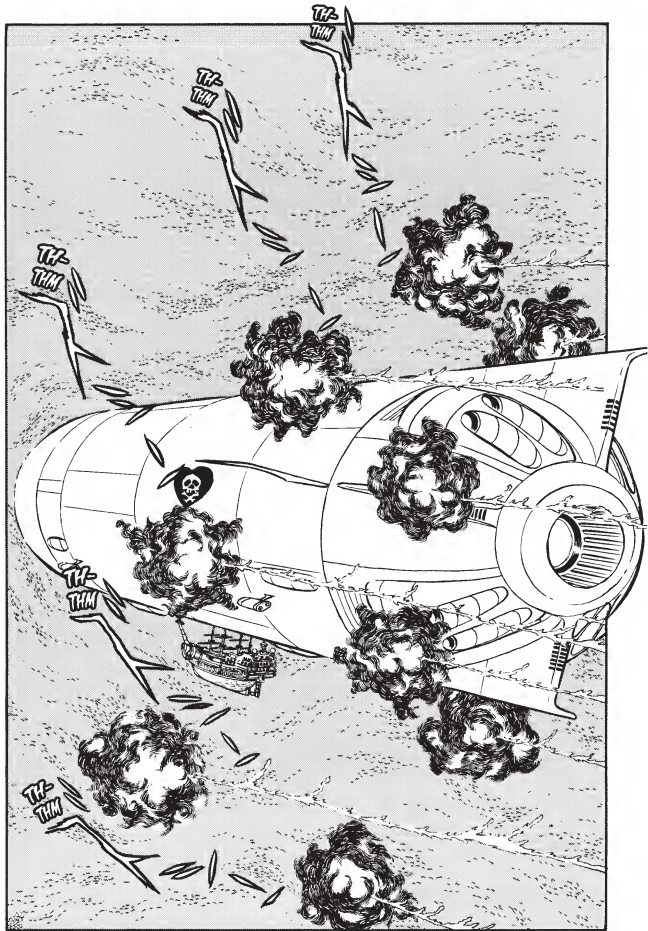
ARMED
SHIPS
CONSTRUCTED
OF HIGH-
DENSITY
ALLOY...
MOST
CURIOUS.

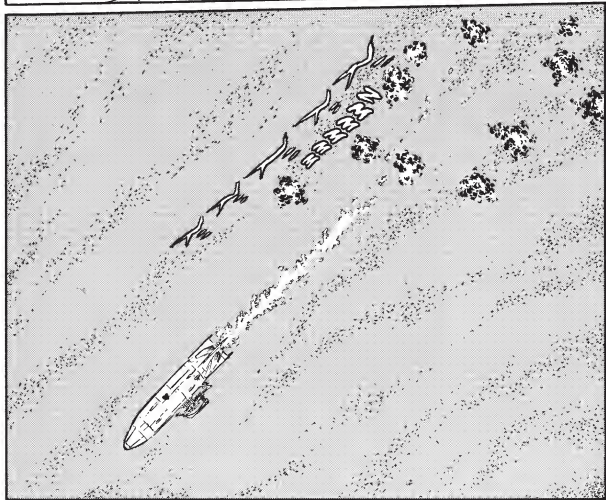
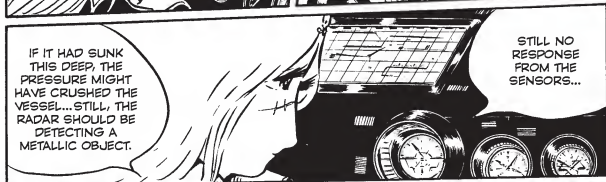
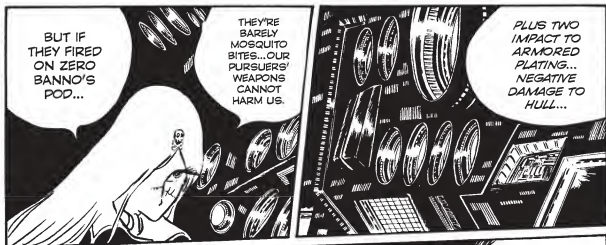
THIS
SEA
HOLDS
MORE
PERILS
THAN
I'D SUR-
MISED.

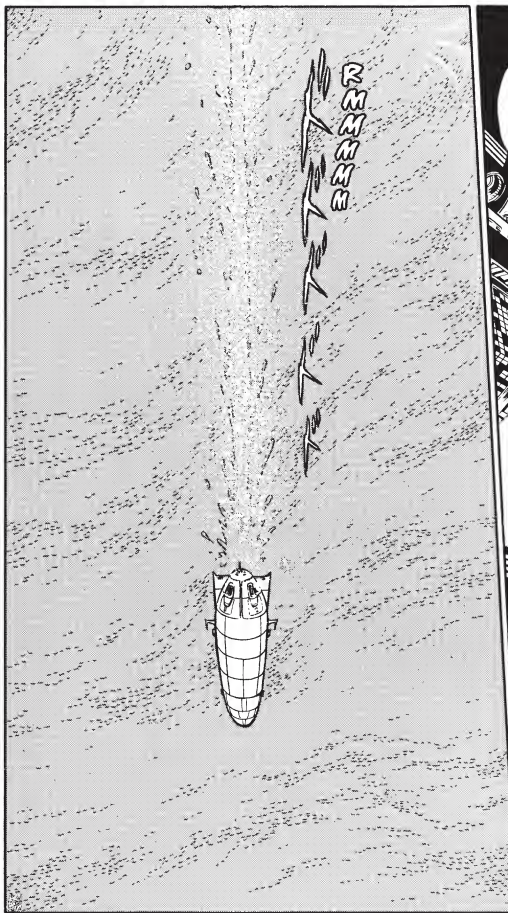
SENSORS
DETECT...
HIGH-DENSITY
METAL ALLOY...
SIZE...D...
ARMED SHIPS...
13 IN NUMBER...











WATER
PRESSURE
RISING
NO DAMAGE
TO HULL...
NO SIGN OF
SEABED
AHEAD...

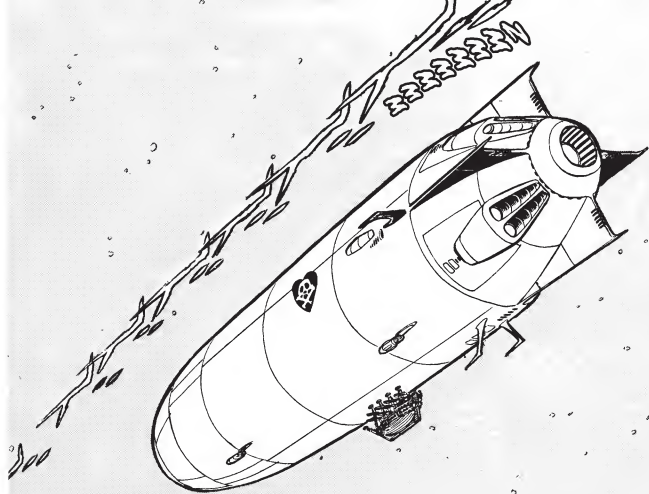
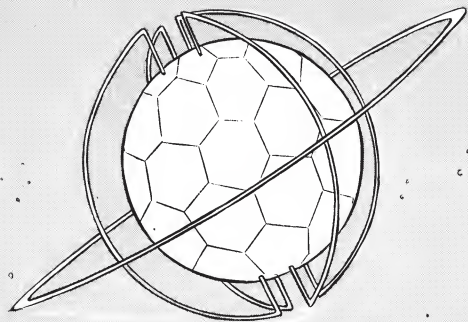
NO
SEABED?
IS THAT
POSSIBLE?
WE'VE BEEN
DIVING
STRAIGHT
DOWN
ALL THIS
TIME...

SENSORS
DETECT
HIGH-DENSITY
METALLIC ALLOY
DEAD AHEAD...
STRUCTURE IS
SPHERICAL...
STATIONARY...

A HIGH-
DENSITY
METALLIC
ALLOY
SPHERE?

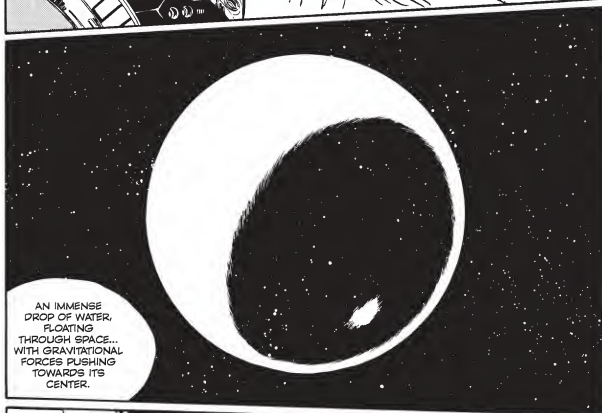
SPHERE'S
LOCATION...
PLANET CORE...
MAXIMUM
WATER PRESSURE.
DIAMETER OF
OBJECT IS 500
METERS.

THE
PLANET'S
CORE IS
ONLY 500
METERS
WIDE?





THIS PLANET
IS PURE WATER...
UNTIL ITS CORE...
SUCH A THING
MAKES NO
SENSE.

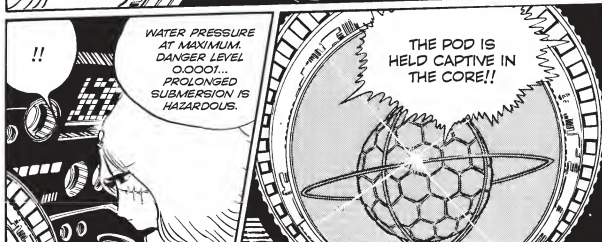


AN IMMENSE
DROP OF WATER,
FLOATING
THROUGH SPACE...
WITH GRAVITATIONAL
FORCES PUSHING
TOWARDS ITS
CENTER.



WHAT...?

ESCAPE POD
DETECTED
INSIDE METAL
SPHERE...



!!

WATER PRESSURE
AT MAXIMUM.
DANGER LEVEL
0.0001...
PROLONGED
SUBMERSION IS
HAZARDOUS.

THE POD IS
HELD CAPTIVE IN
THE CORE!!

FOLLOW
ORDERS
IF YOU
VALUE YOUR
FRIEND'S
LIFE!

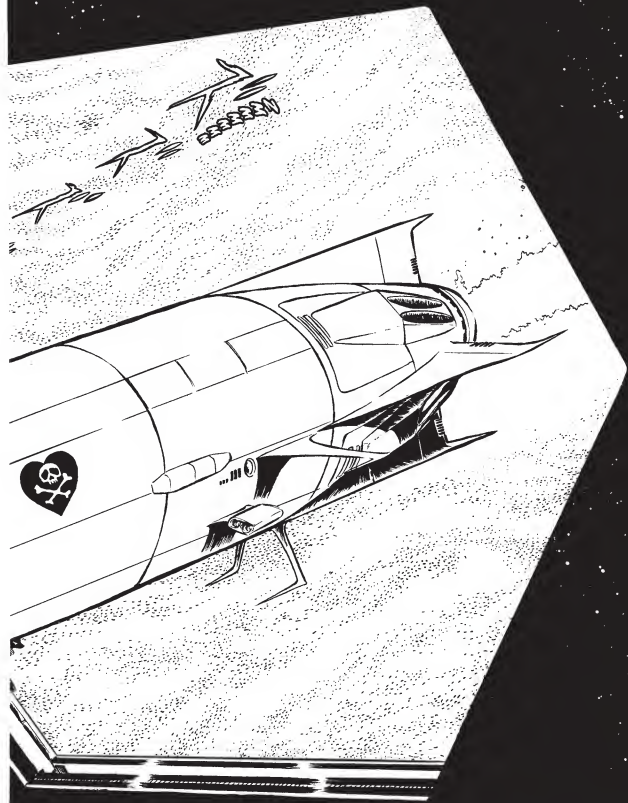
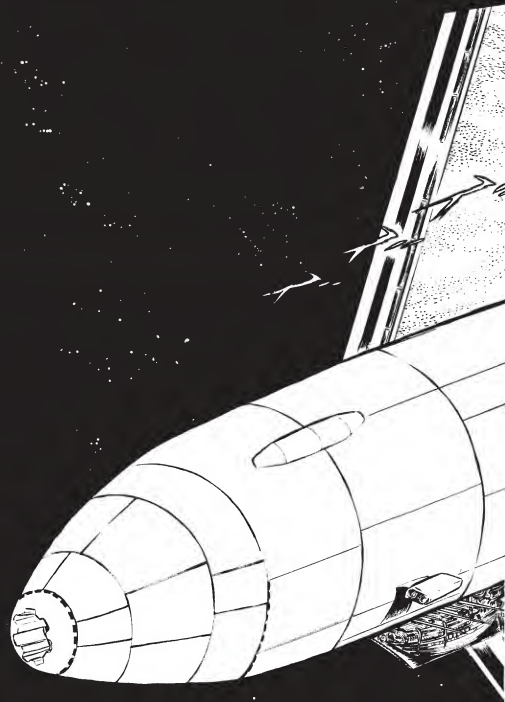
EMERALDAS!
STAND
DOWN AND
SURRENDER,
OR DEPART
IMMEDIATE-
LY!!

WHO
ARE YOU?
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

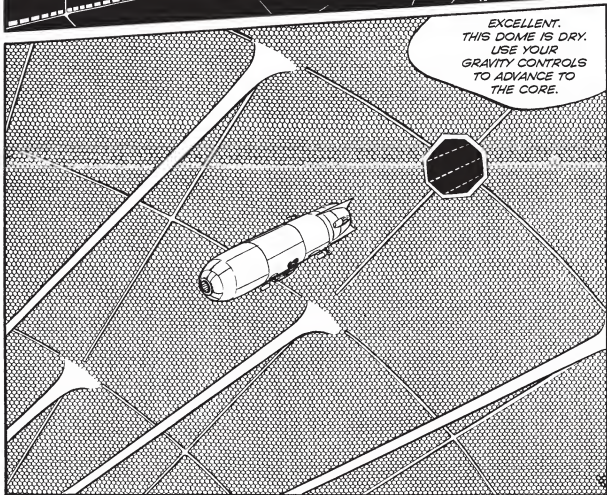
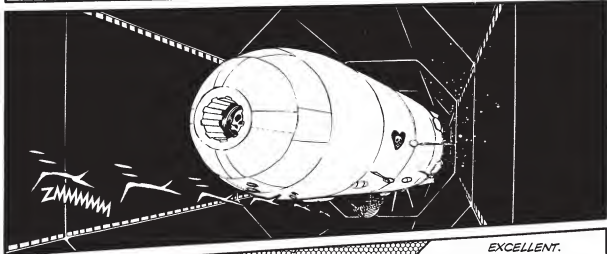
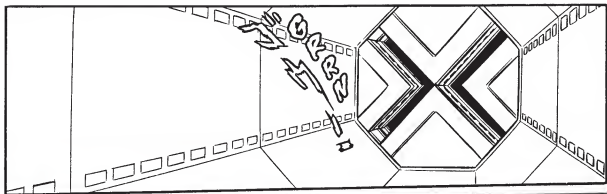
SOMETHING
ON THE OPEN
COMMUNI-
CATION
CHANNEL....

IF YOU CHOOSE
TO SURRENDER,
GUIDE YOUR SHIP
INTO HATCH B!! IF
YOU CHOOSE TO
LEAVE, TURN YOUR
SHIP AROUND AT ONCE!!
ANY OTHER CHOICE
MEANS DEATH
FOR YOU!!

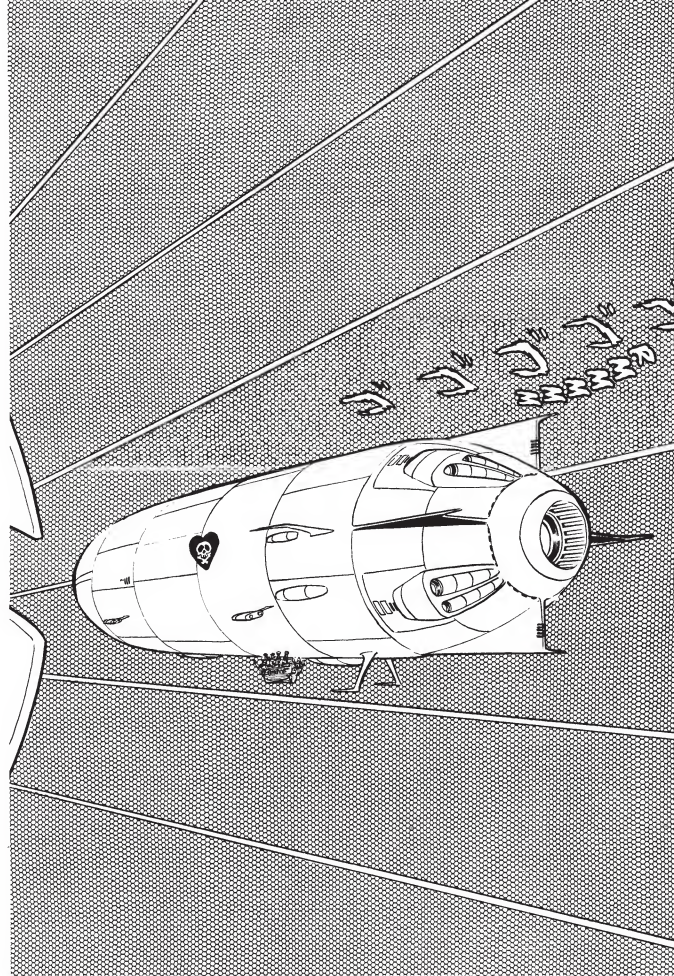
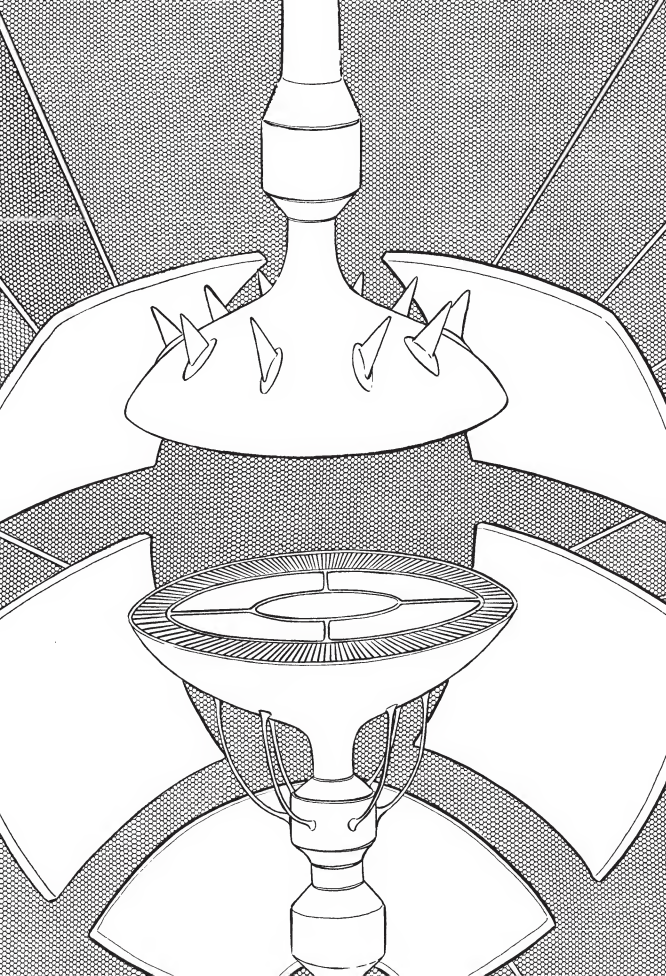
GRNNNN

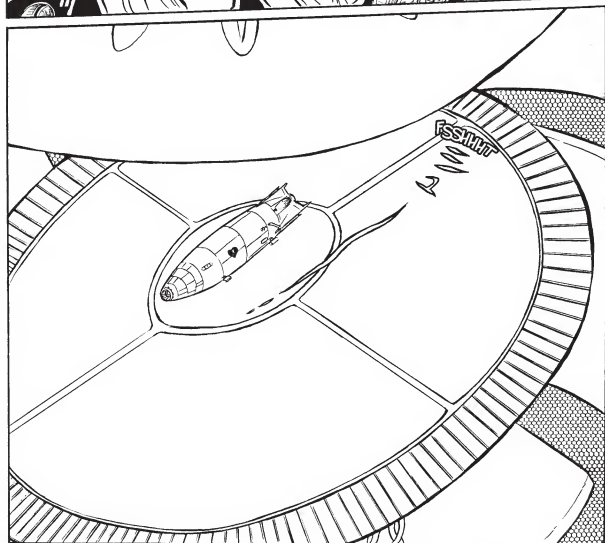
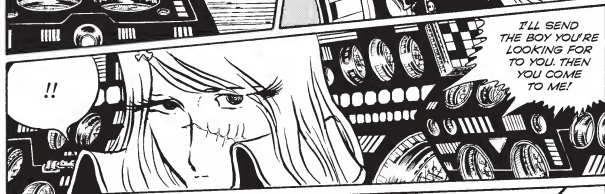
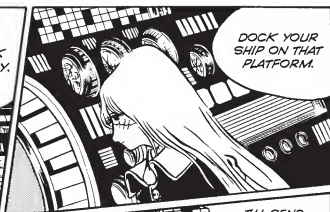
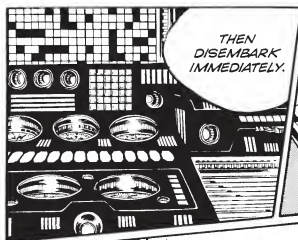


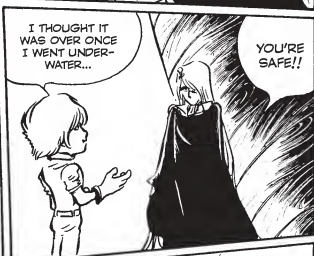
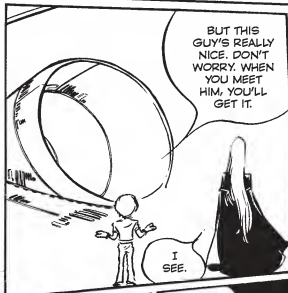
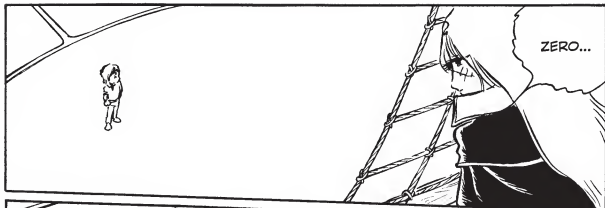
HEH HEH.
YOU SEEM PREPARED,
EMERALDAS.
SLOWLY, NOW...
CONTINUE STRAIGHT
DOWN THE
WATERWAY...

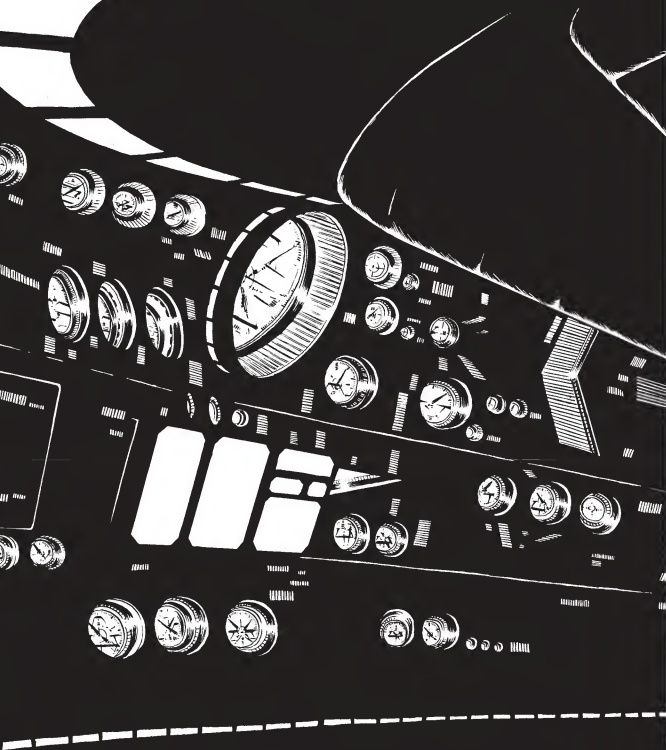


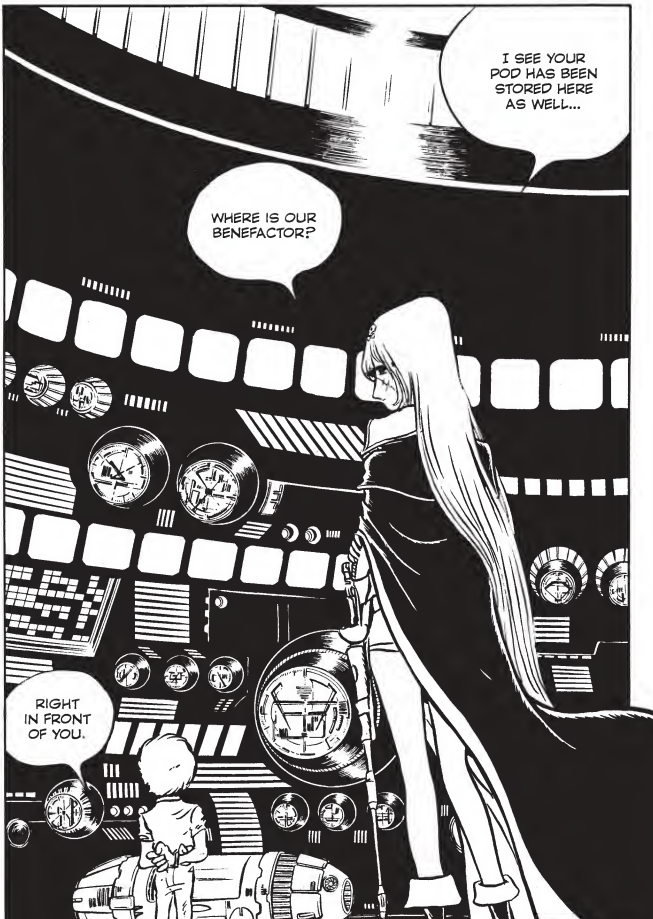
EXCELLENT.
THIS DOME IS DRY.
USE YOUR
GRAVITY CONTROLS
TO ADVANCE TO
THE CORE.







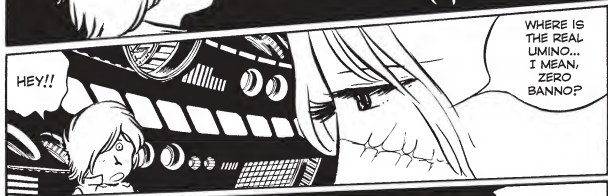
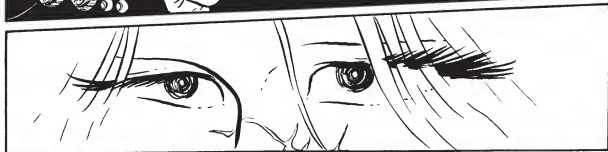
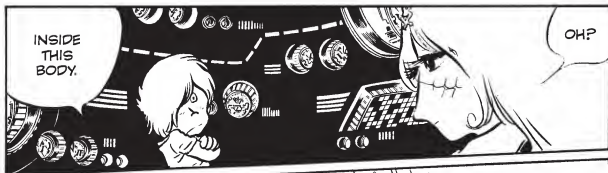




I SEE YOUR
POD HAS BEEN
STORED HERE
AS WELL...

WHERE IS OUR
BENEFACTOR?

RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF YOU.



STOP,
EMERALDAS!!

W...WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

ZHARK

Argh!

WHERE IS
THE REAL
ZERO BANNON?
ANSWER ME.

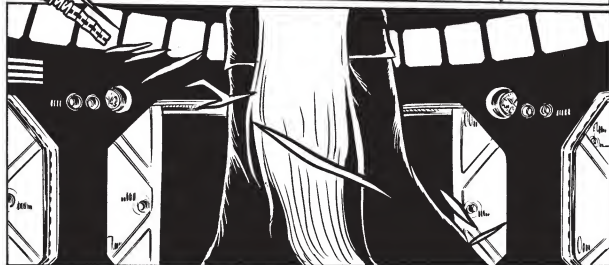
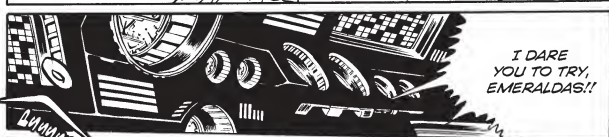
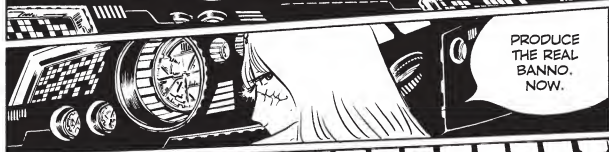


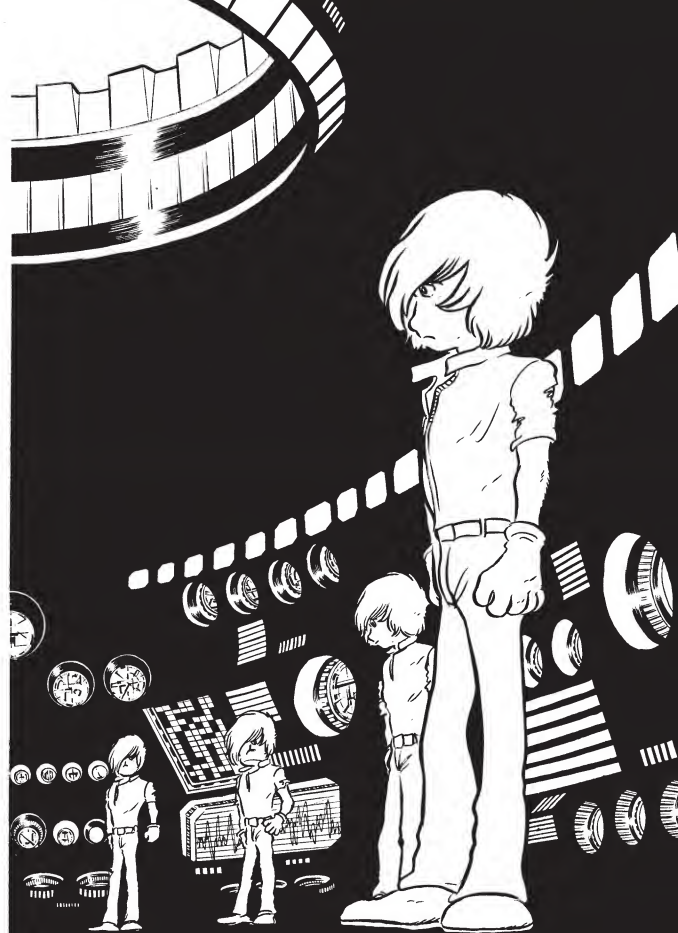
YOU'RE IN
MY BELLY!
YOU'RE
HELPLESS
HERE!
BETTER TO
COOPERATE.

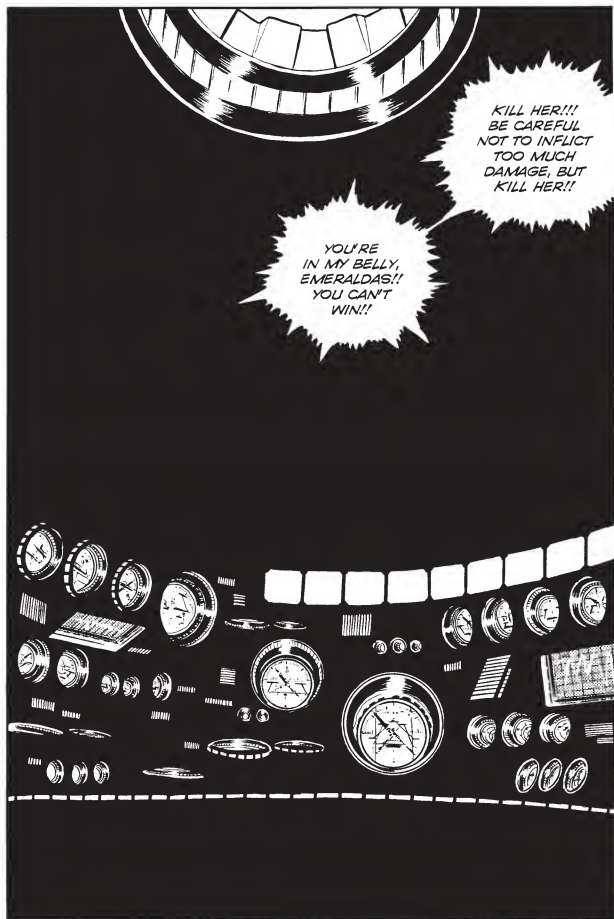


YOU
HAVE NO
POWER HERE,
EMERALDAS!
NOW BE SILENT,
AND DO AS THIS
BOY TELLS
YOU!!





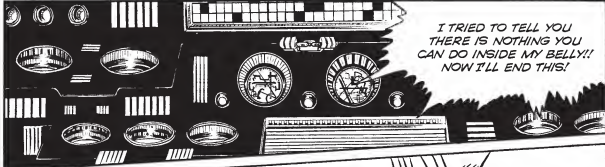












I TRIED TO TELL YOU
THERE IS NOTHING YOU
CAN DO INSIDE MY BELLY!!
NOW I'LL END THIS!



BUT YOU
CANNOT KILL
ME HERE.

I DO NOT
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE.



I'LL
CONSUME
YOU!

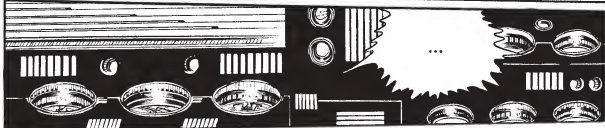


HA HA HA. MY
SHIP AND I WILL
SCATTER YOU
ACROSS SPACE
LIKE DUST.

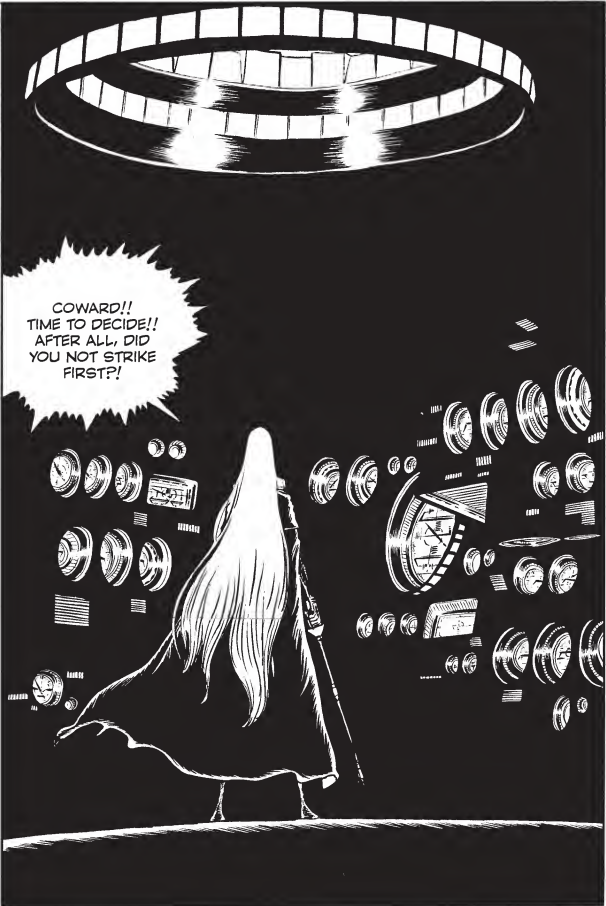
PLEASE
DO TRY.



ENJOY
BEING
ATOMIZED,
WHOEVER
YOU ARE.

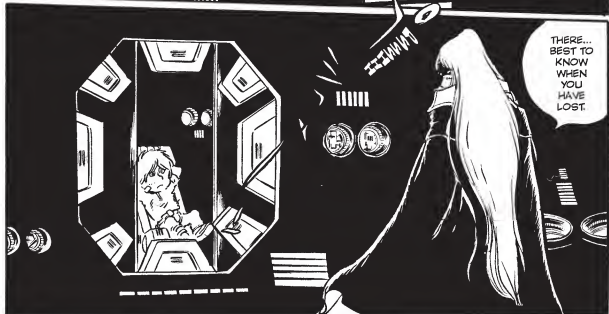
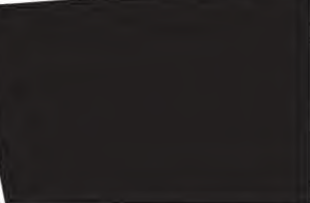
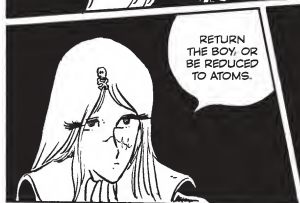
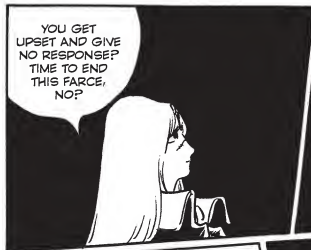


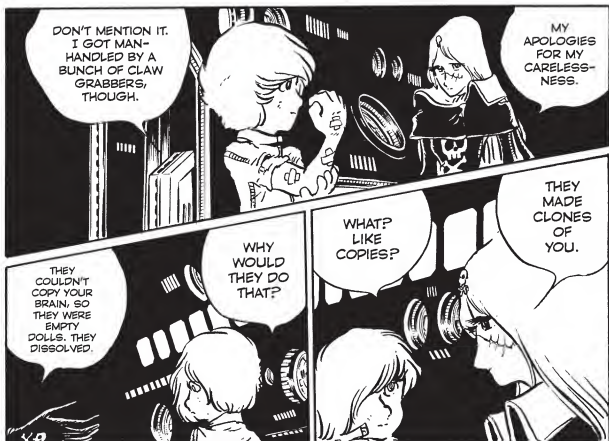
WELL?!
TRY ME, IF YOU
DARE!! I DON'T
INTEND TO DRAG
THIS OUT
FURTHER!!



COWARD!!
TIME TO DECIDE!!
AFTER ALL, DID
YOU NOT STRIKE
FIRST?!









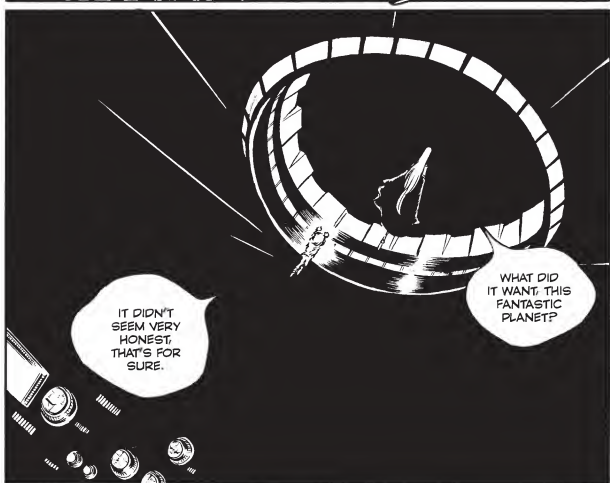
I HAVE NO
REASON TO
DESTROY YOU.



AS LONG AS YOU
DON'T BOTHER
PEOPLE, IT MATTERS
LITTLE TO ME
WHAT YOU DO.

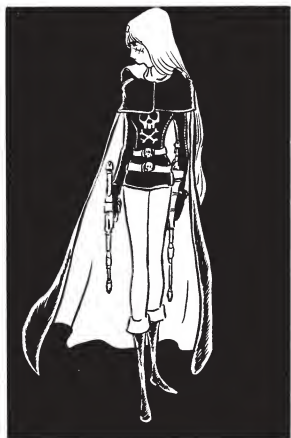
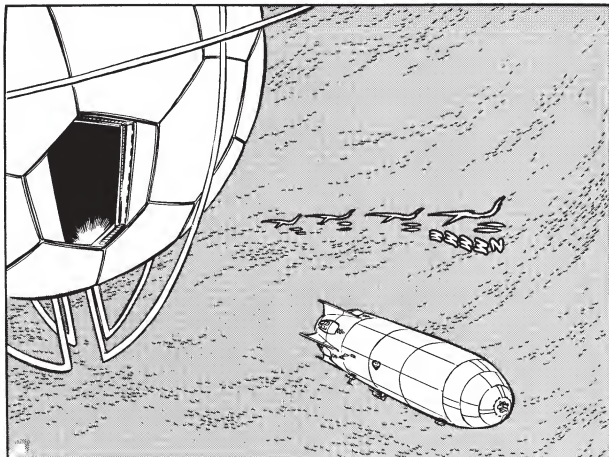


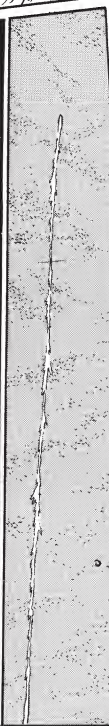
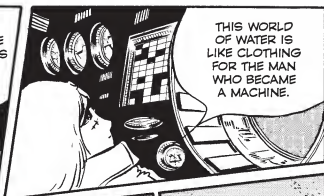
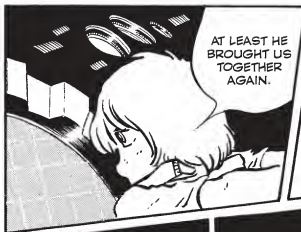
UNDERSTOOD.
IN THAT CASE,
I'LL OPEN THE
GRAVITY DOORS.
LEAVE AT
ONCE.

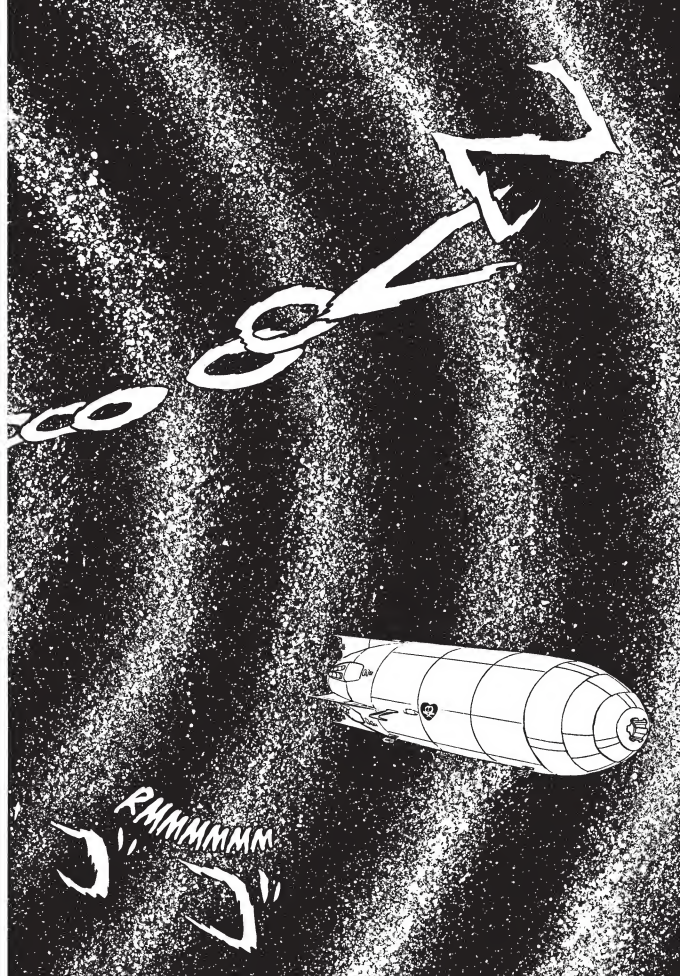


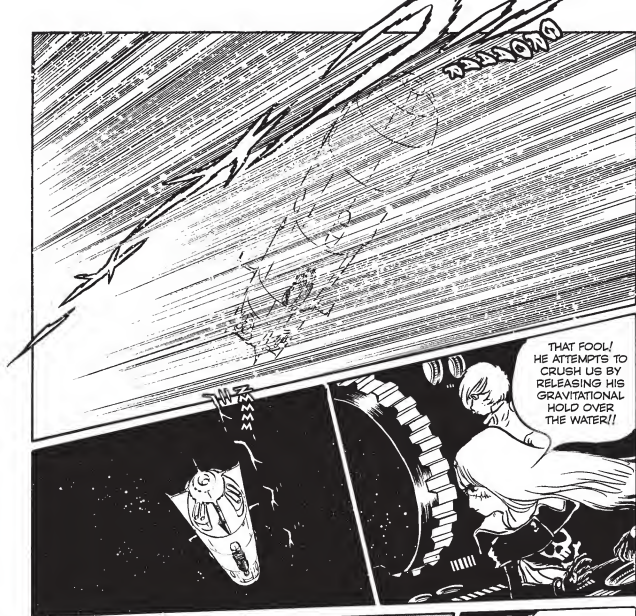
IT DIDN'T
SEEM VERY
HONEST,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.

WHAT DID
IT WANT. THIS
FANTASTIC
PLANET?





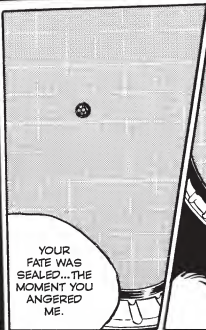




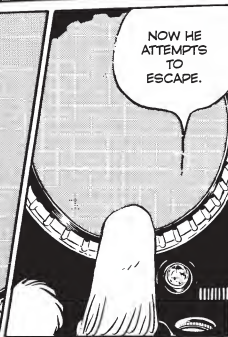
THAT FOOL!
HE ATTEMPTS TO
CRUSH US BY
RELEASING HIS
GRAVITATIONAL
HOLD OVER
THE WATER!!



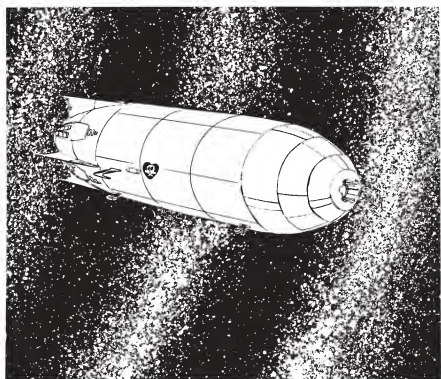
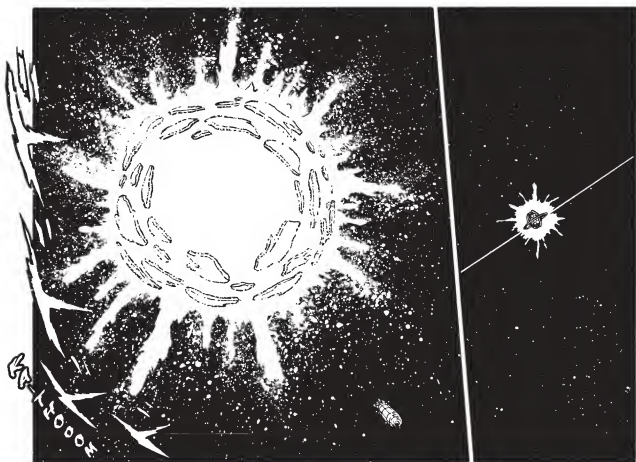
PEW
X O

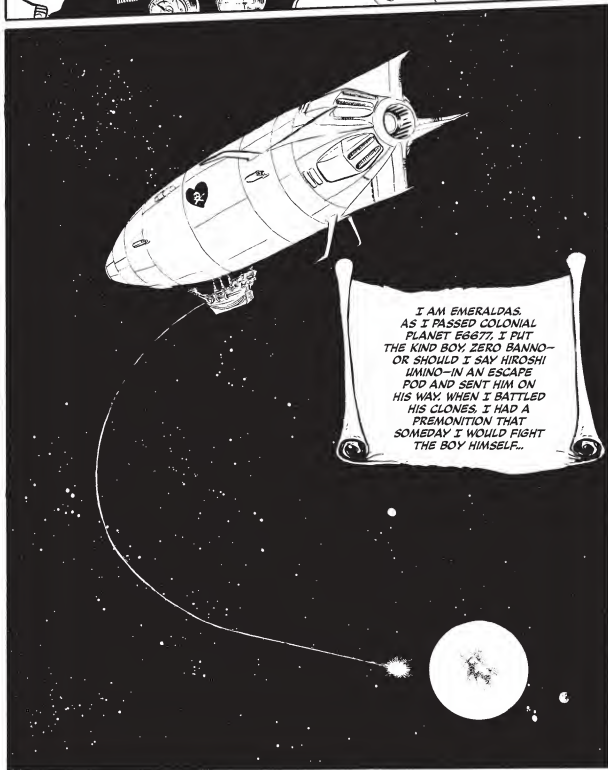
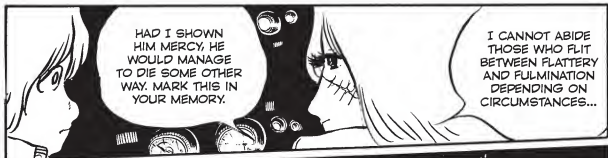


YOUR
FATE WAS
SEALED...THE
MOMENT YOU
ANGERED
ME.

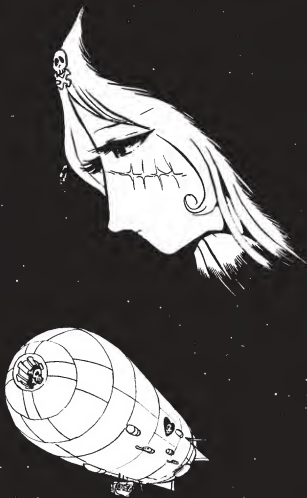


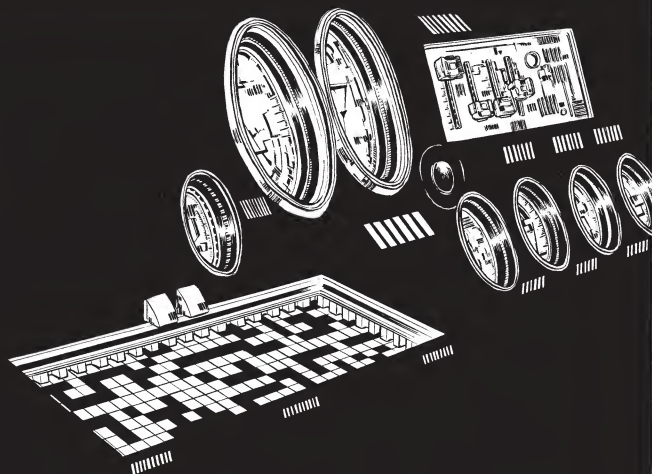
NOW HE
ATTEMPTS
TO
ESCAPE.





I AM EMERALDAS...
NO ONE KNOWS WHY
I WANDER THE VAST
OCEAN OF STARS. IF
ANYONE COULD
COMPREHEND, IT WOULD
BE MY SHIP, THE
QUEEN EMERALDAS.



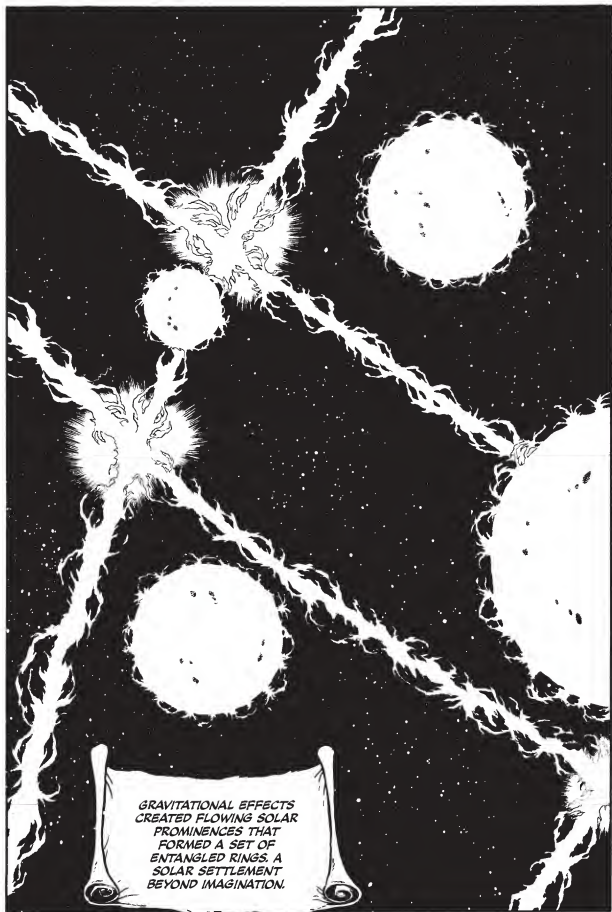


AND YET, I SENSE THE TIME HAS
COME WHEN I MUST TELL A TALE.
I SPEAK OF THAT WHICH HAS NEVER
BEEN TOLD, AND WHICH NO ONE HAS
EVER HEARD, MY OWN STORY...
AND AFTER THIS TALE IS CONCLUDED,
MY SHIP AND I WILL SET SAIL FOR
OUR FINAL VOYAGE, FROM WHICH
WE SHALL NOT RETURN...

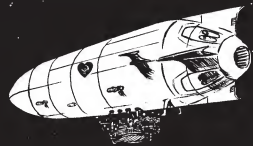
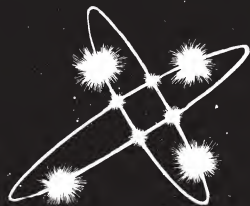
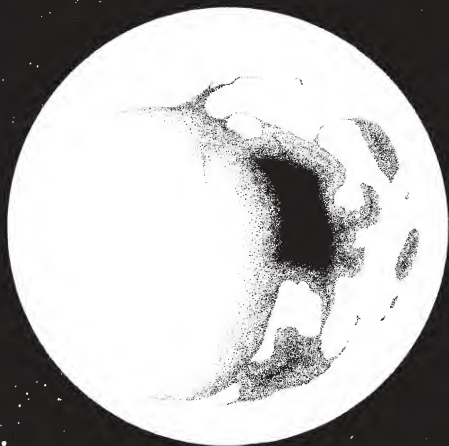




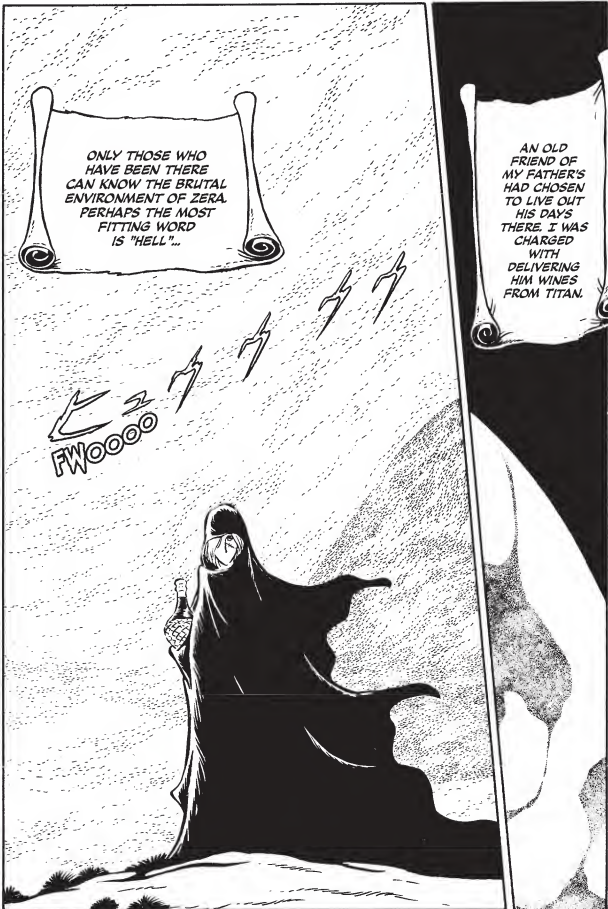
IT ALL
BEGAN WITH A
MYSTERIOUS
QUADRUPLE STAR.
MY HEART WAS
DRAWN TO IT, AND
WE SET COURSE.



GRAVITATIONAL EFFECTS
CREATED FLOWING SOLAR
PROMINENCES THAT
FORMED A SET OF
ENTANGLED RINGS. A
SOLAR SETTLEMENT
BEYOND IMAGINATION.



ZERA WAS THE SEVENTH
PLANET ORBITING THIS
QUADRUPLE STAR, ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF ANDROMEDA...
ON THE SURFACE OF
THIS DESOLATE COLONY,
SANDSTORMS RAGED
ACROSS AN EXPANSE OF
BRONZED EARTH.
A HARSH WORLD...



ONLY THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN THERE
CAN KNOW THE BRUTAL
ENVIRONMENT OF ZERA.
PERHAPS THE MOST
FITTING WORD
IS "HELL"...

AN OLD
FRIEND OF
MY FATHER'S
HAD CHOSEN
TO LIVE OUT
HIS DAYS
THERE. I WAS
CHARGED
WITH
DELIVERING
HIM WINES
FROM TITAN.

FWOOOOO

MORE
CRUEL
BY FAR
ARE ITS
PEOPLE.

ZERA'S
BRUTALITY
IS NOT
LIMITED TO
ITS ENVIRON-
MENT...

FWOOO

ARE YOU
TALKING
TO MEP

DON'T
MOVE!

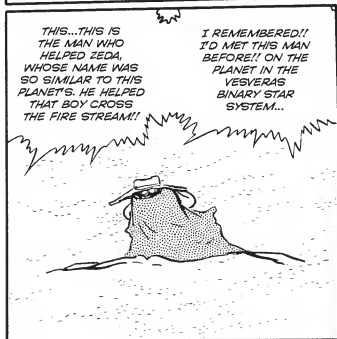
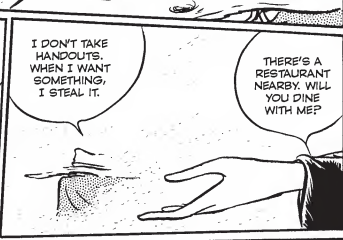
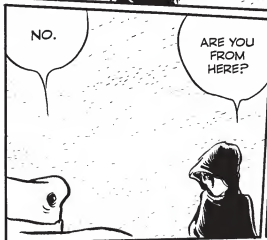
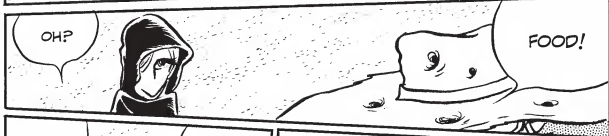
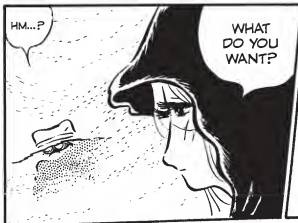
I AM
EMERALDAS.
USUALLY I
DO NOT OBEY
ORDERS. BUT
THIS LITTLE
MAN STIRRED
SOMETHING
IN ME...

THAT'S
RIGHT!
GIMME
EVERYTHING
YOU GOT!!

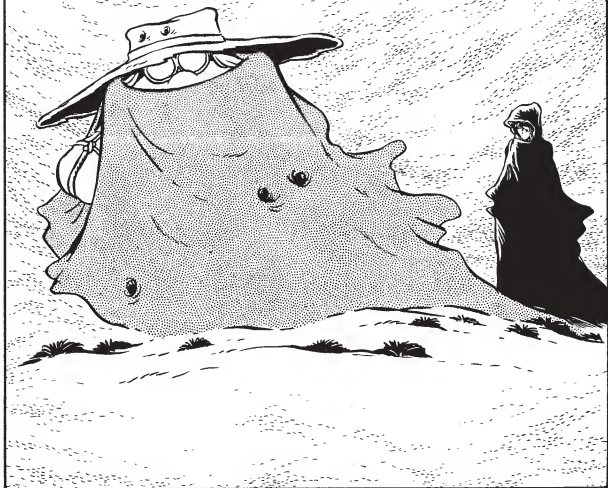
FOR WHATEVER
REASON, I
PASSIVELY DID
AS HE ASKED.
HIS BODY EXUDED
A FIERY ENERGY.

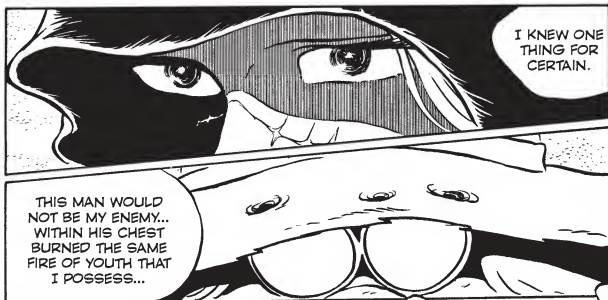
HMPH!!

WHAT'S
THIS?
BOOZE?



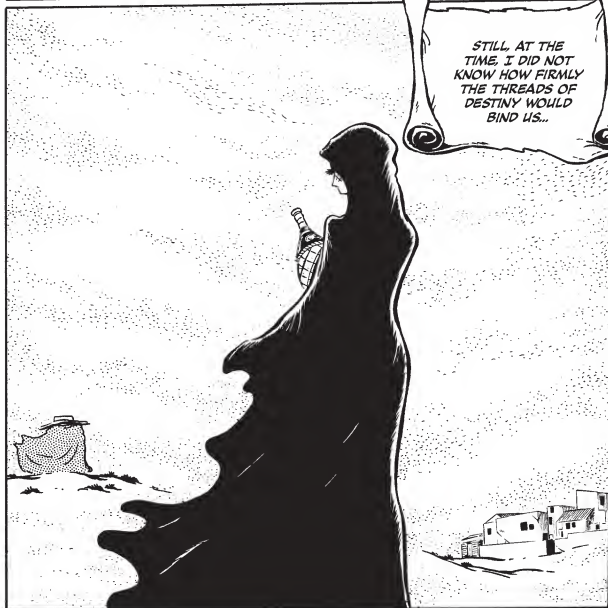
ONLY A MAN WHO HAS FACED
DEATH MANY TIMES AND WALKED
AWAY COULD POSSESS SUCH AN
INDOMITABLE POWER. IT WAS CLEAR
THOSE WHO MISJUDGED HIM BY
APPEARANCE AND THOUGHT TO TAME
HIM WITH A LAQUID HAND WOULD
FIND THAT HAND CUT OFF.
I UNDERSTOOD THIS WELL...





I KNEW ONE
THING FOR
CERTAIN.

THIS MAN WOULD
NOT BE MY ENEMY...
WITHIN HIS CHEST
BURNED THE SAME
FIRE OF YOUTH THAT
I POSSESS...



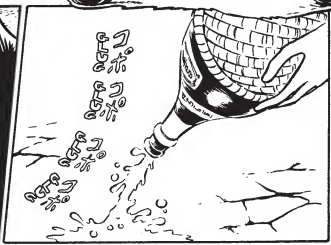
STILL, AT THE
TIME, I DID NOT
KNOW HOW FIRMLY
THE THREADS OF
DESTINY WOULD
BIND US...

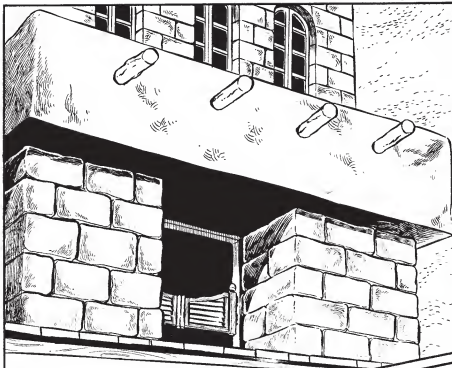
HOWEVER,
IN ITS PLACE
WAS NOTHING
BUT A PILE OF
CRUMBLED ROCK,
WEATHERED
BY THE WIND
AND RETURNING
TO DUST...

THE
DWELLING
OF MY
FATHER'S
FRIEND
LAY ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF
THIS BLIGHTED
SETTLEMENT.

AS I GAZED UPON
THIS RUBBLE, I FELT
THAT TIME WAS A RIVER,
WHOSE FLOW MERCILESSLY
SWEEPED AWAY MEN'S LIVES.
NOTHING COULD HALT IT..

ONE DAY, I, TOO, SHALL WEATHER AWAY, LIKE THESE STONES...





AFTER THE
EARTH DRANK
DEEP OF THE
WINE, I SOUGHT
A TAVERN IN
THE RESIDENTIAL
QUARTERS TO
QUENCH MY
OWN THIRST.

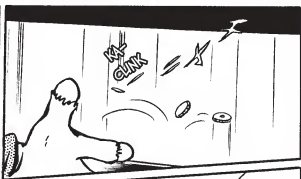


WHAT'S
THAT?
NO BOOZE?
JUST FOOD?
HOW MUCH
YOU GOT?

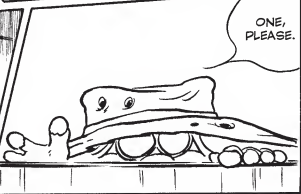


WHAT THE...?
THIS'LL JUST
ABOUT GET
YA A CHICKEN
BONE!

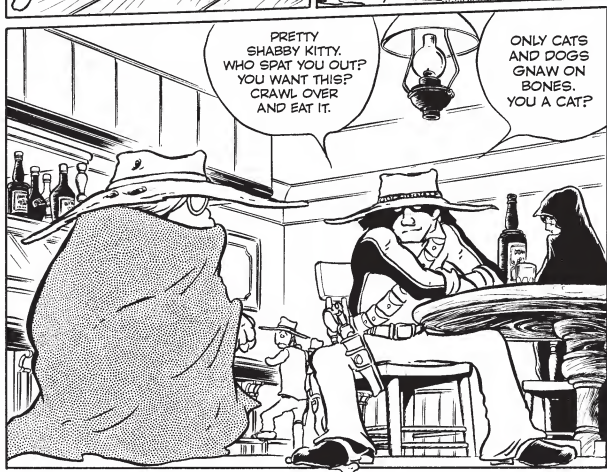
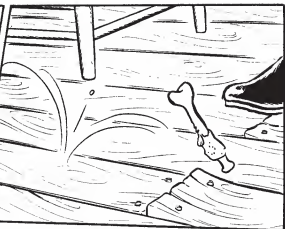
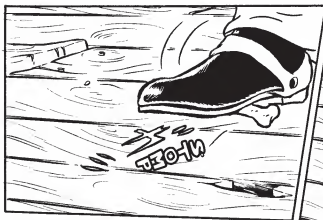
HMPH!!



HERE!



ONE,
PLEASE.



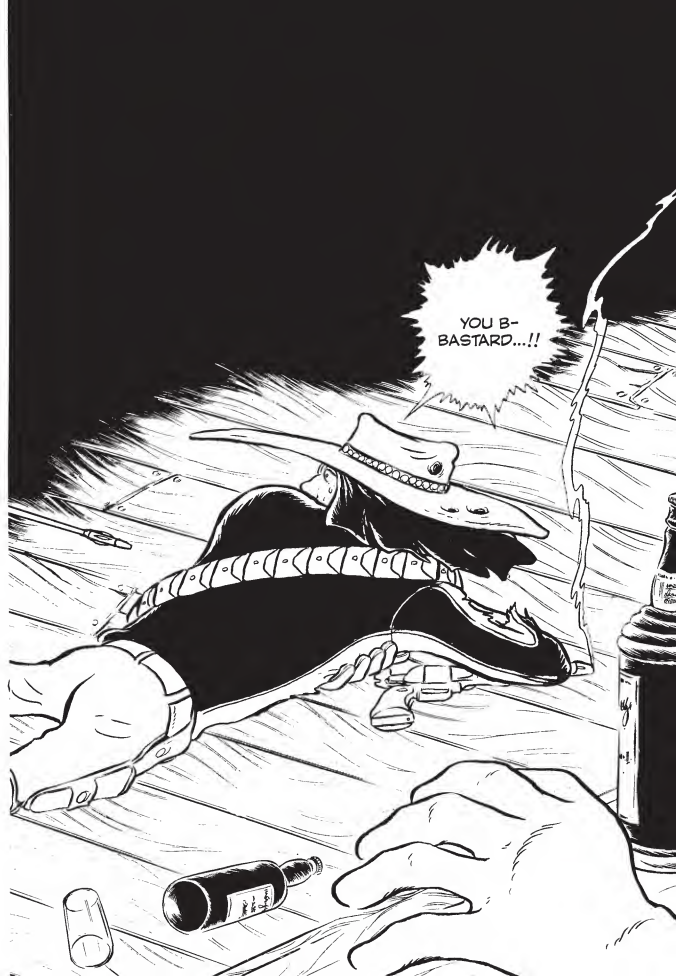
ARE
YOU SURE
THAT'S ALL
RIGHT?

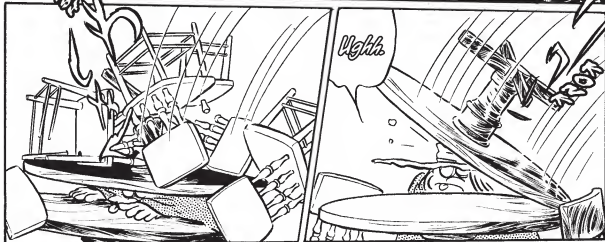
SURE!
IF YOU DON'T
VALUE YOUR
LIFE!! COME
AND GET IT,
STRAY CAT!!

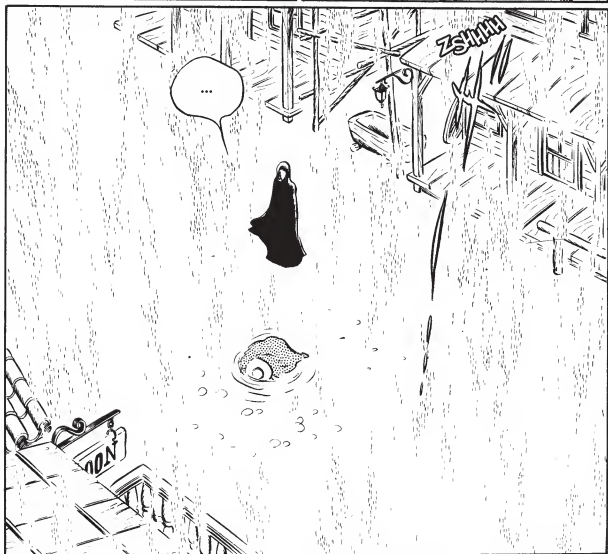
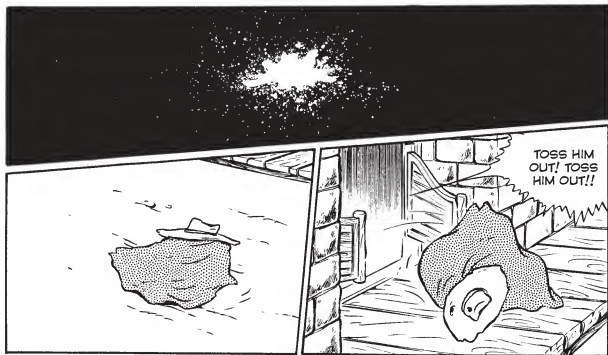


ZWARK

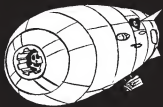
I AM EMERALDAS. LONG AGO,
AN OLD DRUNKARD WHOSE SONGS
I OFTEN HEARD SAID TO ME, "NO
MATTER HOW BIG YOU ARE, HOW
SMART YOU ARE, YOU CANNOT
CROSS THE SEA OF STARS. BUT A
SMALL MAN WITH BAD EYES AND
A WILL OF IRON? THERE'S NOWHERE
IN THE UNIVERSE HE CAN'T GO. ME?
DRINK RUSTED AWAY MY IRON WILL..."



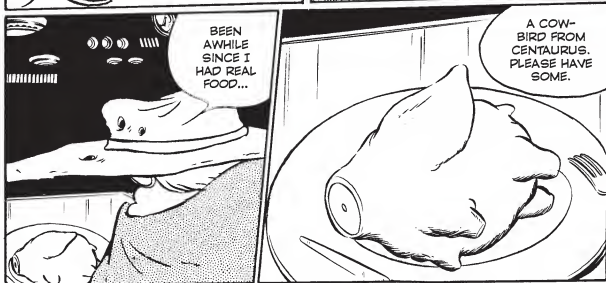
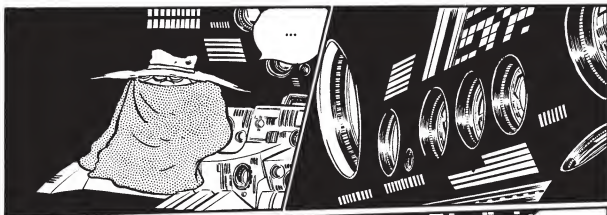


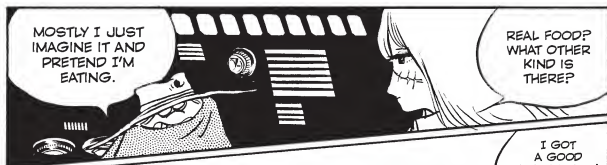


I AM EMERALDAS.
I BROUGHT THIS
MAN ABOARD MY
SHIP, AND DEPARTED
FROM THE QUADRUPL
STAR SYSTEM. THIS
ENDS THE PROLOGUE
OF MY STORY.









MOSTLY I JUST
IMAGINE IT AND
PRETEND I'M
EATING.

REAL FOOD?
WHAT OTHER
KIND IS
THERE?

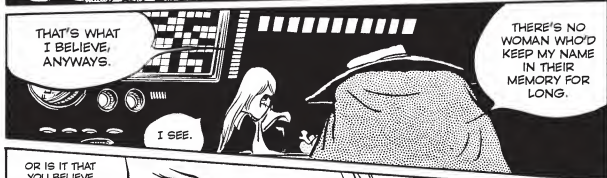


I GOT
A GOOD
IMAGINATION!
TASTES
PRETTY GOOD
IN THERE!



NO
POINT IN
TELLING
YOU.

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



THAT'S WHAT
I BELIEVE,
ANYWAYS.

THERE'S NO
WOMAN WHO'D
KEEP MY NAME
IN THEIR
MEMORY FOR
LONG.

I SEE.



OR IS IT THAT
YOU BELIEVE
TALKING TO A
WOMAN IS A
WASTE OF
TIME?

THEN I SUPPOSE
I ALSO SHOULDN'T
ASK WHAT YOU ARE
DOING, WHERE YOU
ARE GOING?



THAT
WAS GOOD.
REAL FOOD
TASTES
SO MUCH
BETTER.

EXACTLY.
TALKING
WON'T
CHANGE
YOUR
FATE.

WHAT?
WHY
THERE?

SORRY TO ASK,
BUT NOW THAT
I'M FULL, CAN
YOU TAKE ME
BACK TO WHERE
WE WERE?

I DON'T
WANT THEM
THINKING I
GOT KNOCKED
OUT AND
NEEDED
SAVING!

THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY I CAN
LEAVE WITHOUT
REGRETS!!

YOU HIT
ME, YOU
GET HIT BACK
HARDER!!!
THEN I GO!



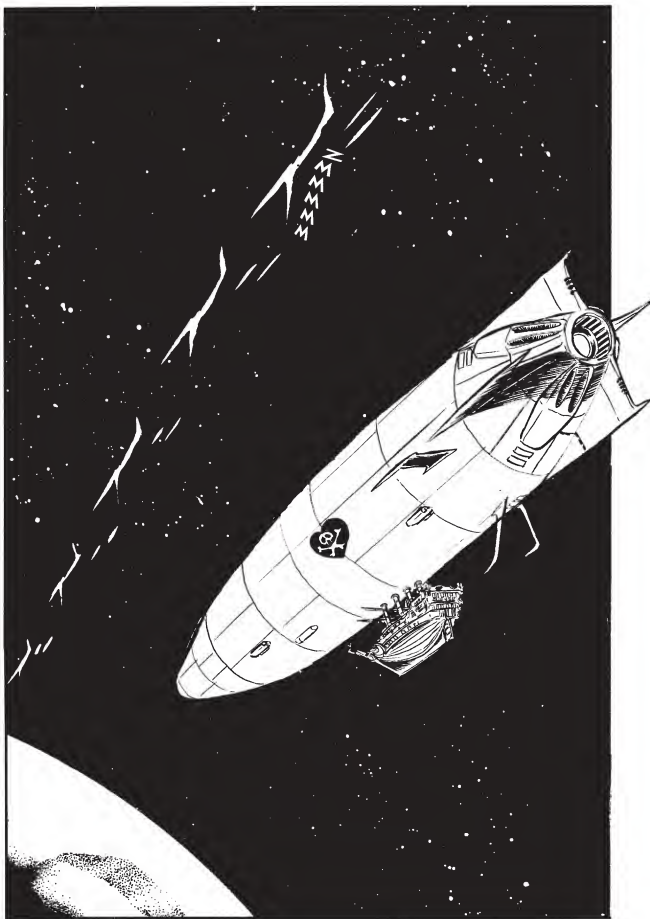


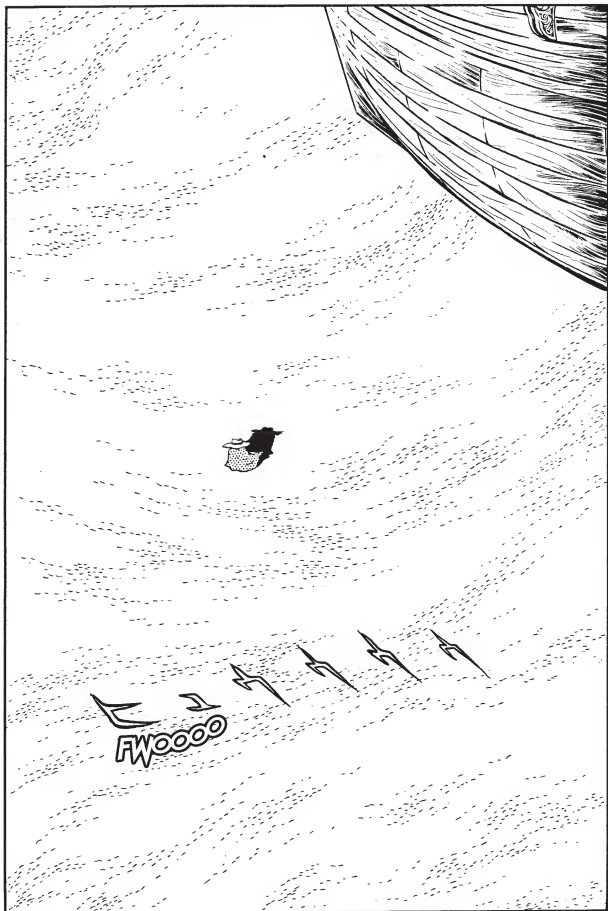
SOMEHOW, I
FOUND IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO
DEFY THIS MAN'S
STUBBORNNESS...

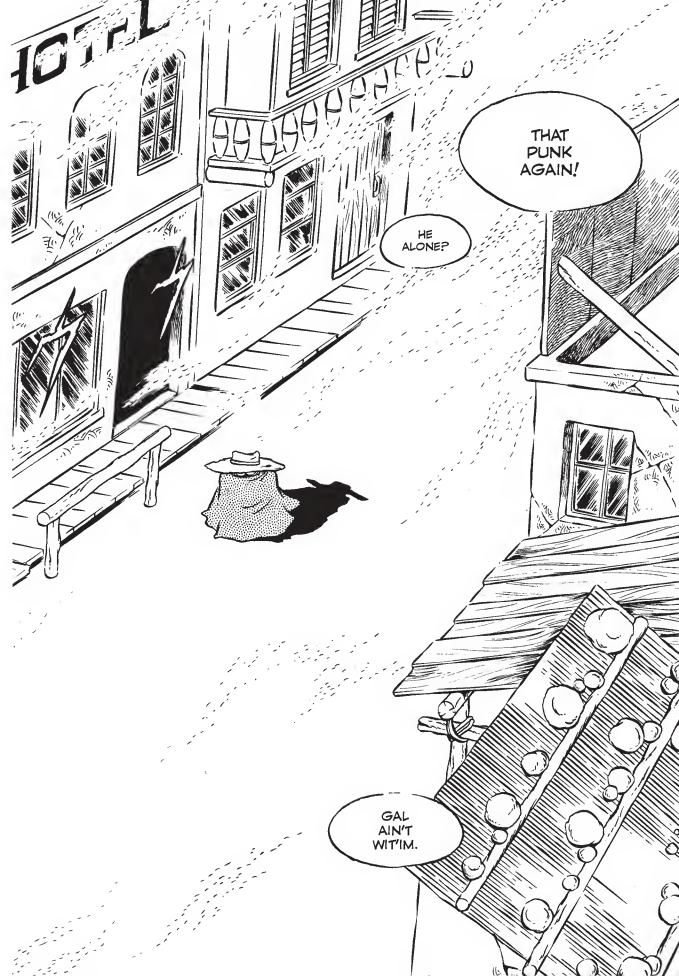
THAT
SHIP THAT
SCOOPED HIM
UP IS SWINGING
BACK AROUND!
PISTOLS AT READY!
THEY SHOW THEIR
FACES, WE FILL
'EM WITH
HOLES!!

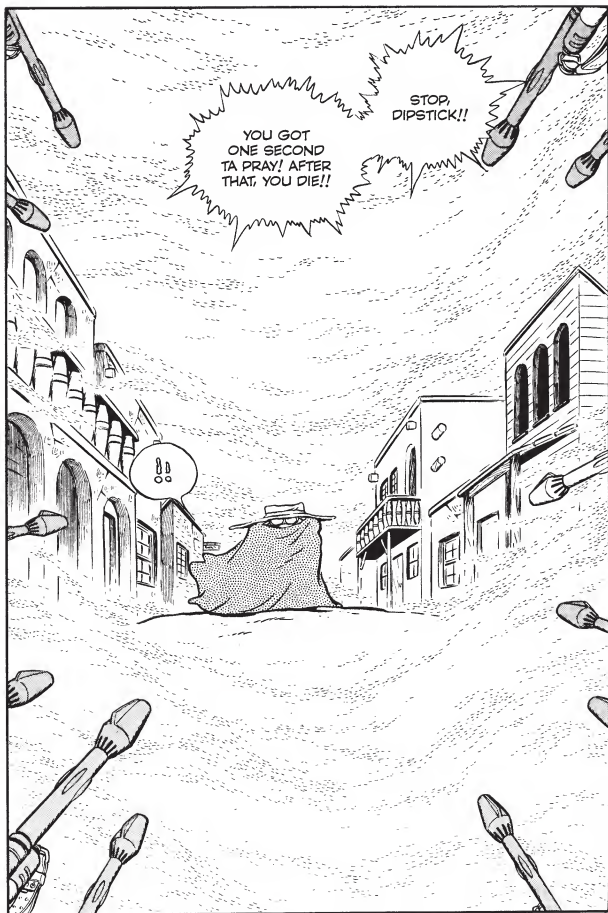










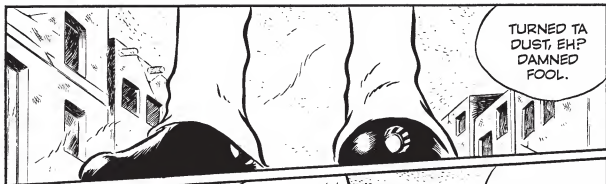


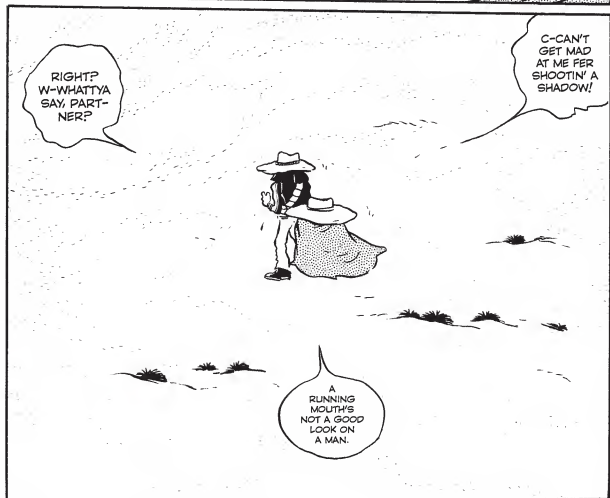
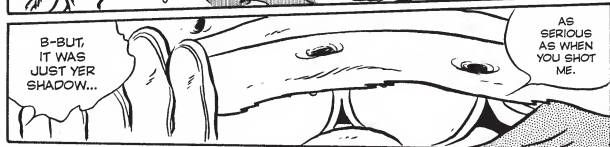
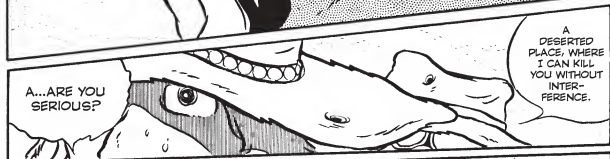
BHAAAAM

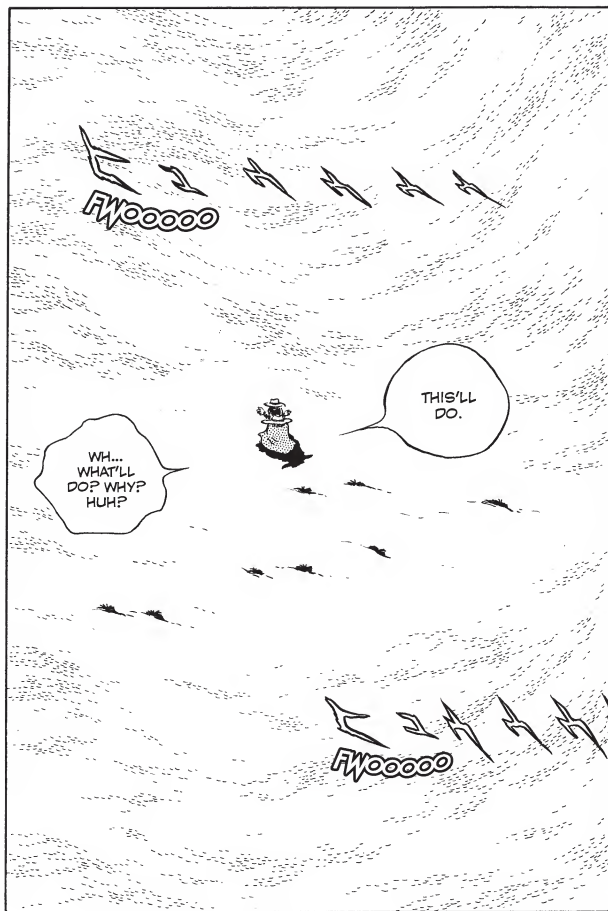
SSSSHHH

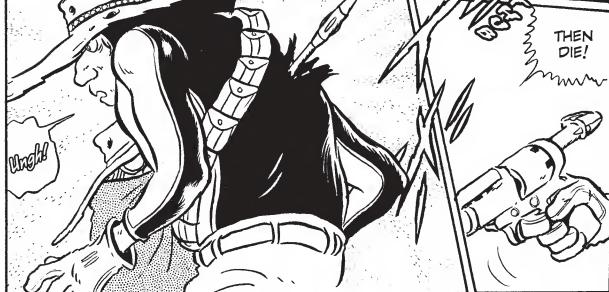
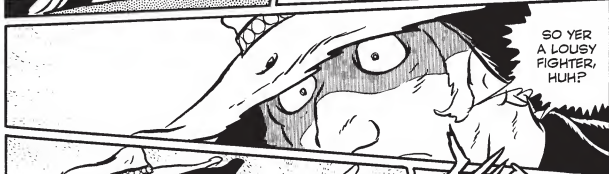
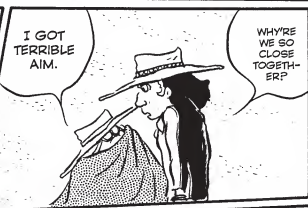
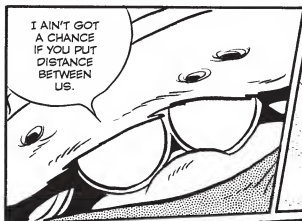
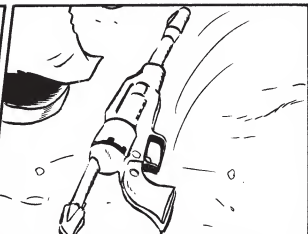
POOOO

DISINTEGRATED....!!



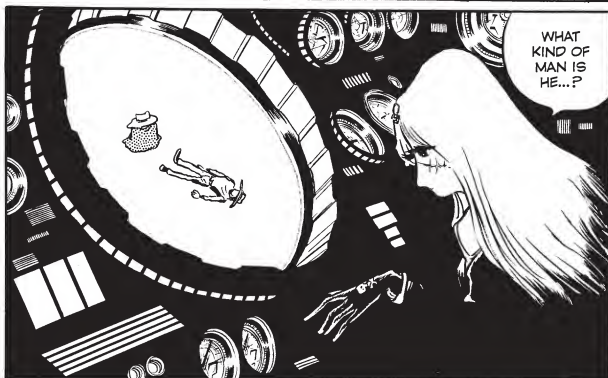
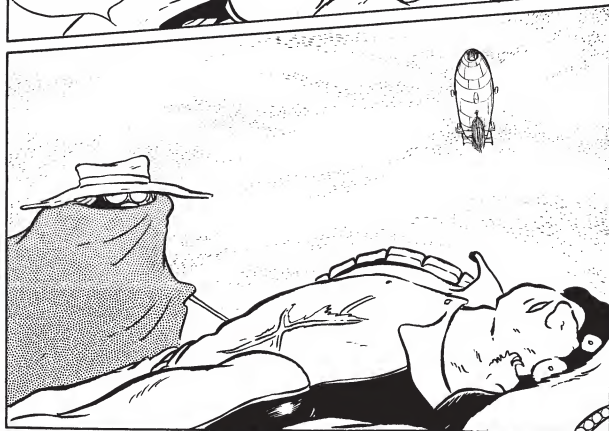






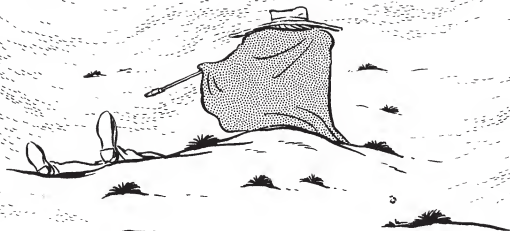
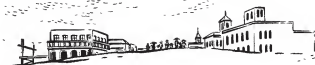
BUT I'M
EXQUISITE
WITH A
GRAVITY-
SABER.

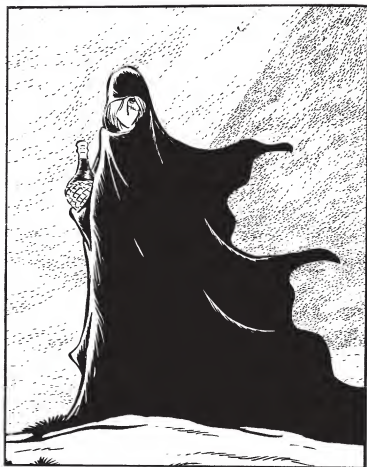
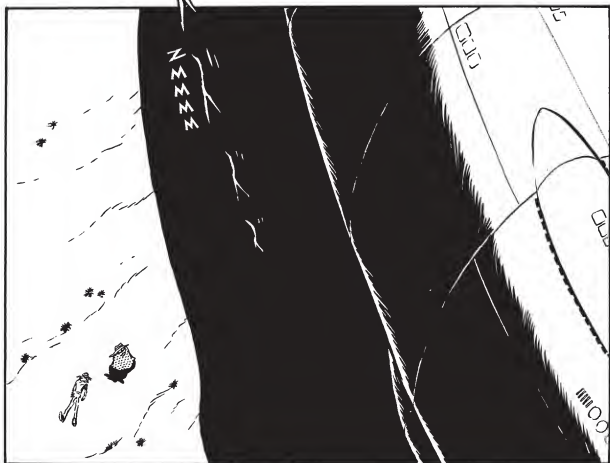
I SAID
I GOT
TERRIBLE
AIM.



I COME
BACK AND
SEE HE'S
NOT BURIED,
I'LL WIPE OUT
THE WHOLE
TOWN!!

HEY!
YOU BURY
THIS GUY,
YOU HEAR
ME!!



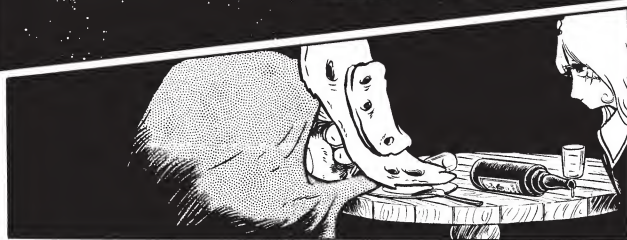
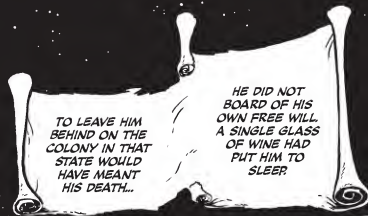
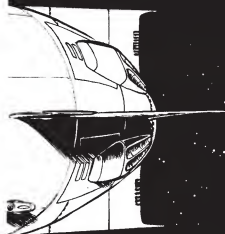
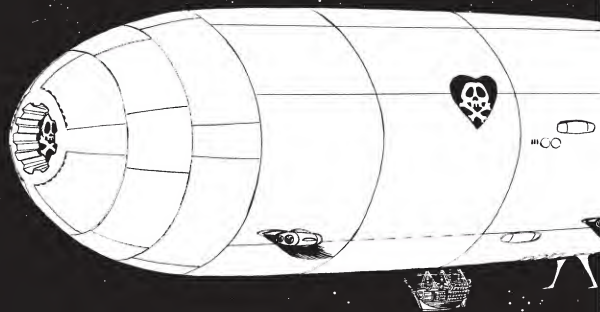


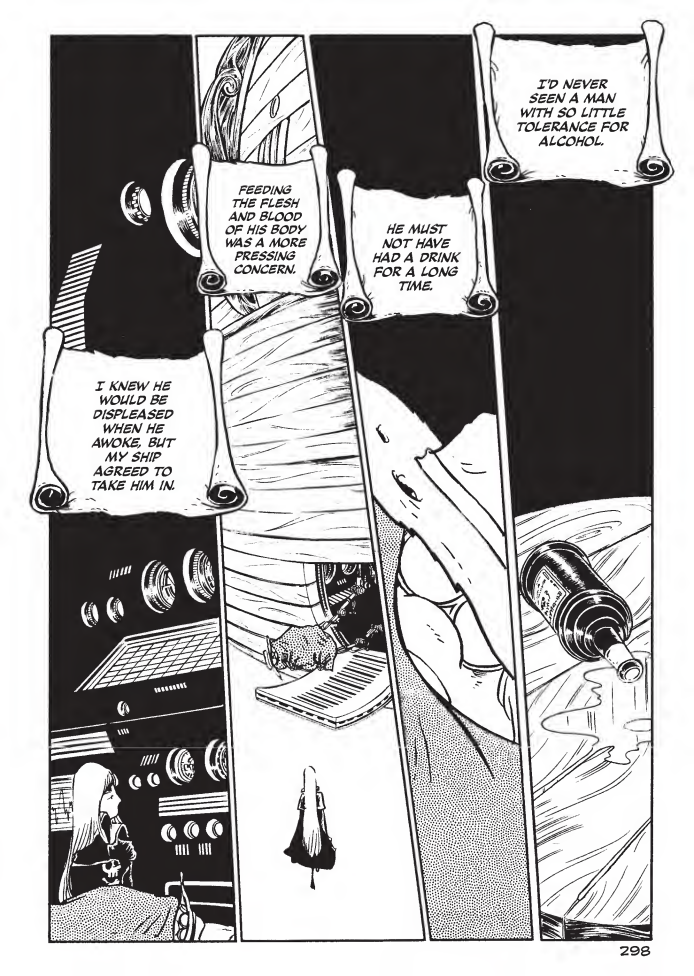




I AM EMERALDAS...
IN ALL OF MY WANDERING
JOURNEYS, THAT WAS
THE FIRST TIME I TOOK
A PASSENGER OTHER
THAN HIROSHI UMINO...







I'D NEVER
SEEN A MAN
WITH SO LITTLE
TOLERANCE FOR
ALCOHOL.

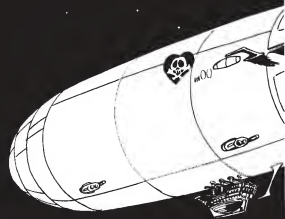
FEEDING
THE FLESH
AND BLOOD
OF HIS BODY
WAS A MORE
PRESSING
CONCERN.

HE MUST
NOT HAVE
HAD A DRINK
FOR A LONG
TIME.

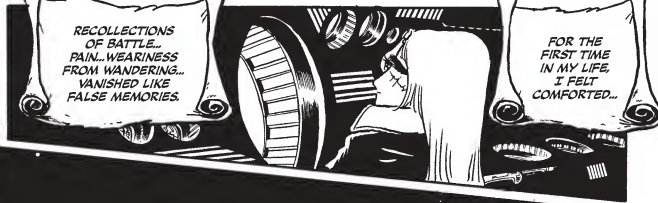
I KNEW HE
WOULD BE
DISPLEASED
WHEN HE
AWOKE, BUT
MY SHIP
AGREED TO
TAKE HIM IN.

*SHE TRUSTED
THIS MAN...
A RARE THING
FOR THIS
CAUTIOUS SHIP
OF MINE...*



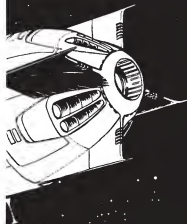


THE INFINITE
STARS SPARKLED
WITH LIFE. THEY
LOOKED LIKE
IRREPLACEABLE
JEWELS...

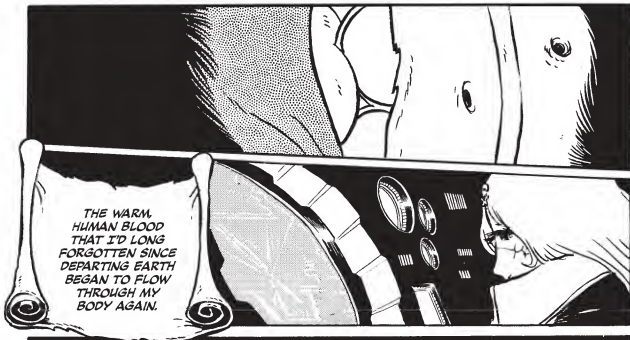


RECOLLECTIONS
OF BATTLE...
PAIN...WEARINESS
FROM WANDERING...
VANISHED LIKE
FALSE MEMORIES.

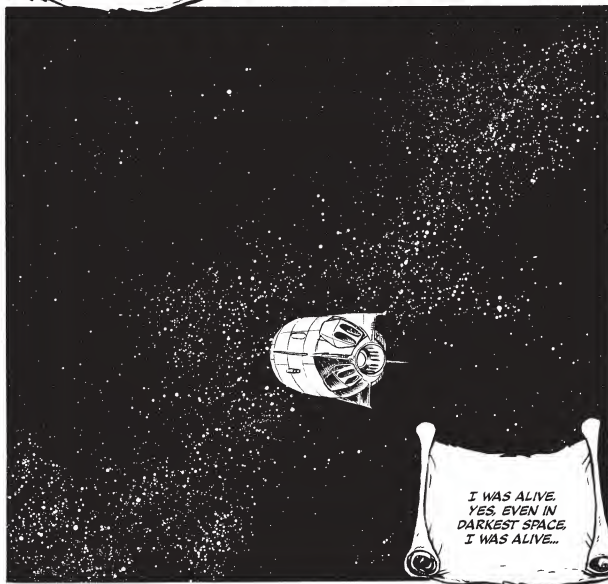
FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE,
I FELT
COMFORTED...



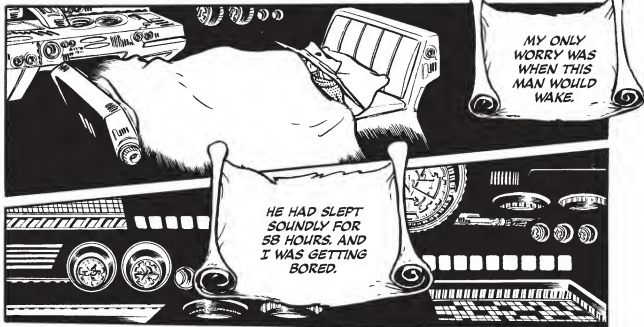
I'D NEVER
SAILED THIS
OCEAN OF
STARS WITH
SUCH A
TRANQUIL
MIND...

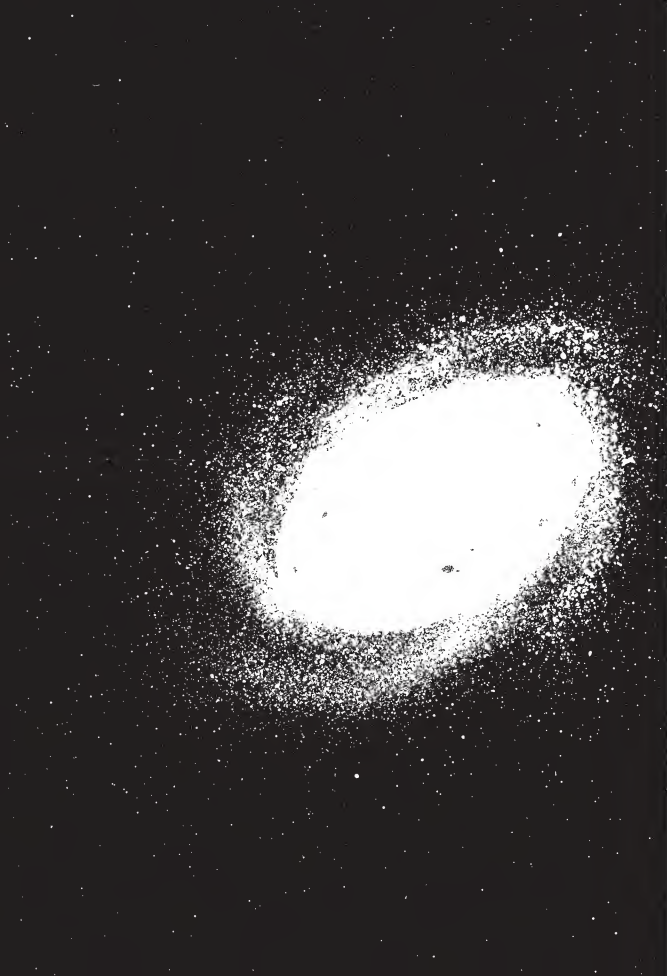


THE WARM
HUMAN BLOOD
THAT I'D LONG
FORGOTTEN SINCE
DEPARTING EARTH
BEGAN TO FLOW
THROUGH MY
BODY AGAIN.



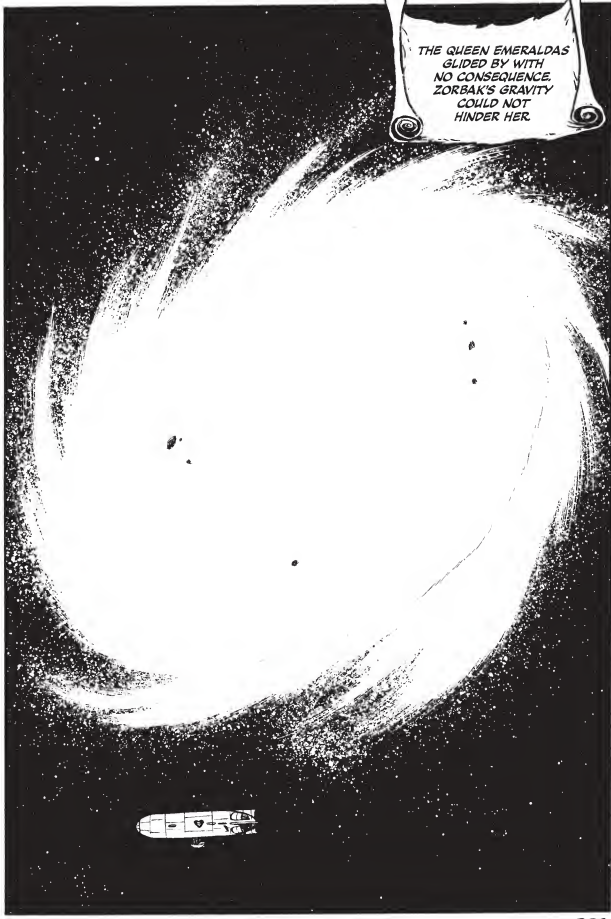
I WAS ALIVE.
YES, EVEN IN
DARKEST SPACE,
I WAS ALIVE...



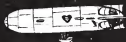


THE RED GIANT ZORBAK!
IT REVOLVED AT
FRIGHTENING SPEEDS.
TWISTING SPACE AROUND IT,
THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE WAS
CRUSHING THE STAR ITSELF.
NO TRAVELER DARED APPROACH
THIS DANGEROUS STAR...

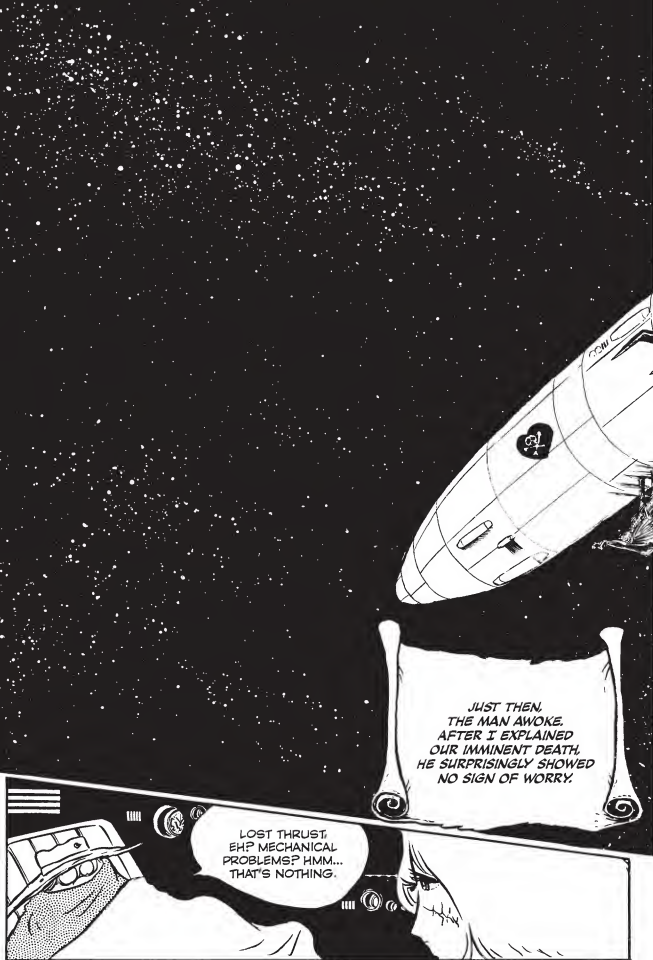


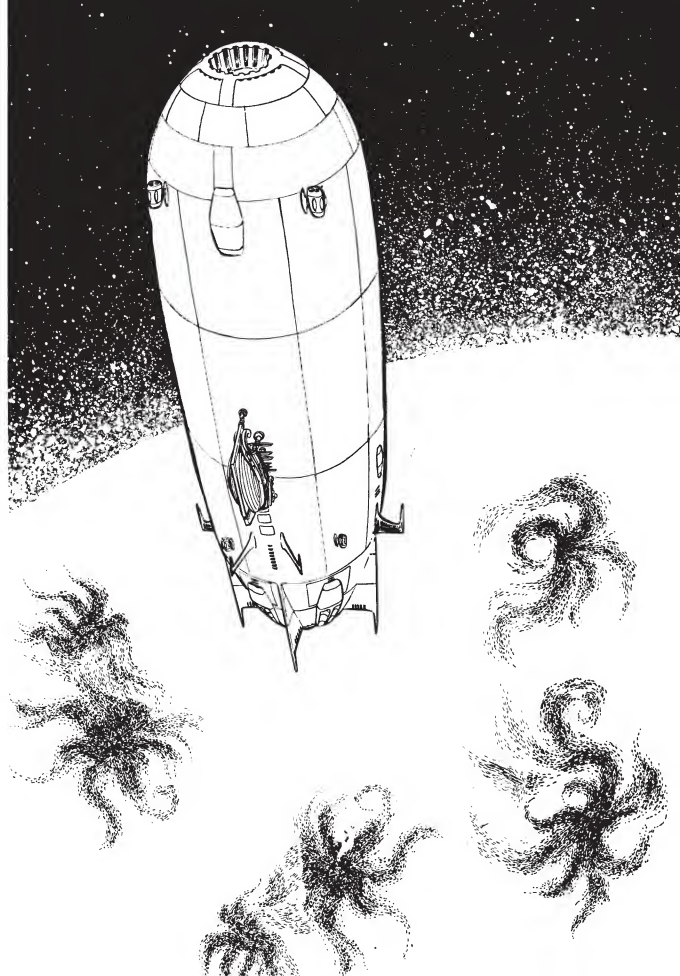


THE QUEEN EMERALDAS
GLIDED BY WITH
NO CONSEQUENCE.
ZORBAK'S GRAVITY
COULD NOT
HINDER HER.

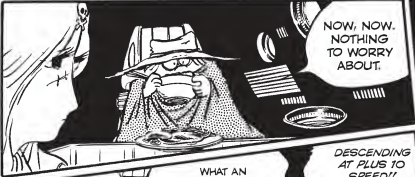












NOW, NOW.
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

THRUST
DEGRADING 80%...
UNABLE TO RESIST
GRAVITATIONAL
PULL!! IMMEDIATE
REPAIRS
NEEDED!!

I CANNOT
TOUCH HER
BRAIN.

WHAT AN
ANNOYING SHIP.
CAN'T YOU SHUT
HER UP?

DESCENDING
AT PLUS TO
SPEED!!
THRUSTERS
FAILING!!
RESTORE
IMMEDIATELY!!

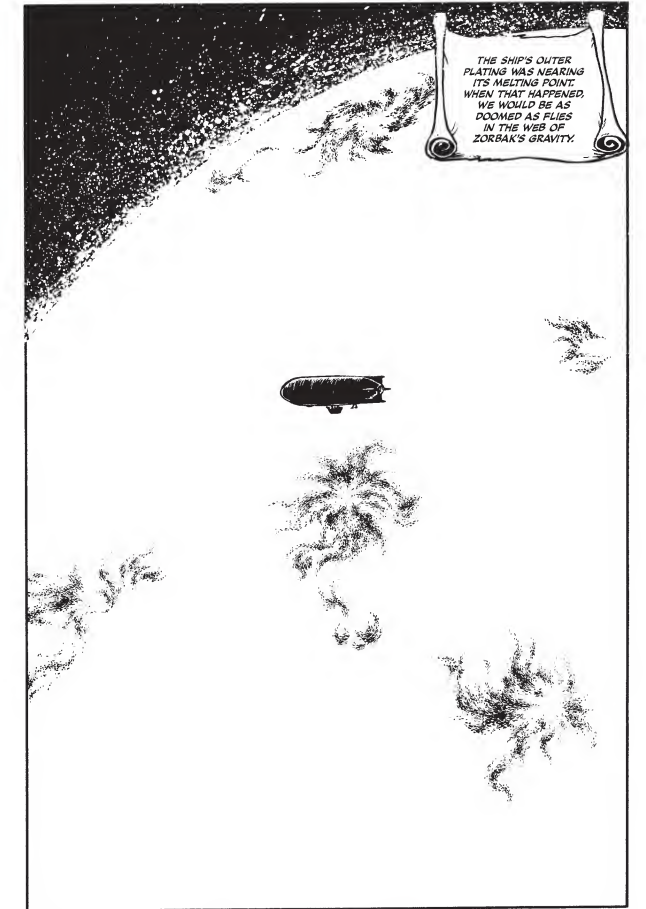


HMM...
METER'S
SHOWING
ANOMALIES...
IT'S A
MESS.

YES.
ALTHOUGH I
HAVE NEVER
TOUCHED IT.

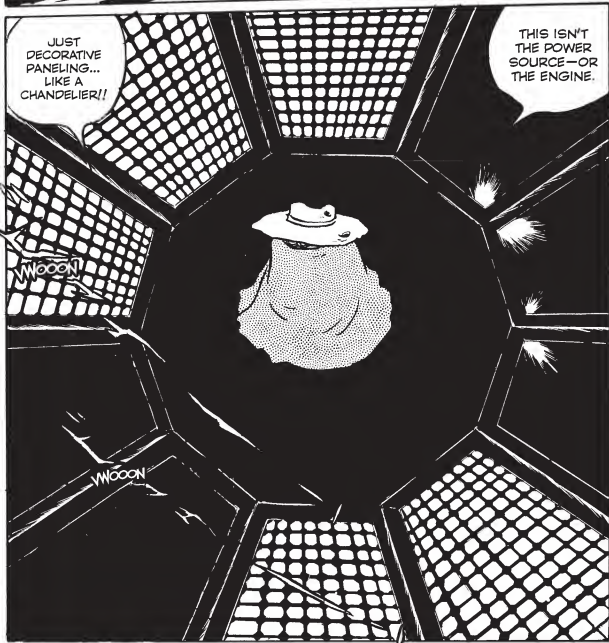
GOTTA BE
THE POWER
SOURCE.
ENGINE'S
DOWN
HEREP





THE SHIP'S OUTER
PLATING WAS NEARING
ITS MELTING POINT.
WHEN THAT HAPPENED,
WE WOULD BE AS
DOOMED AS FLIES
IN THE WEB OF
ZORBAK'S GRAVITY.

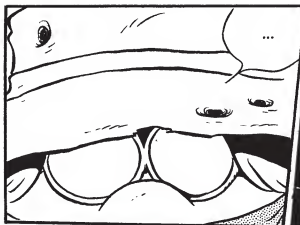




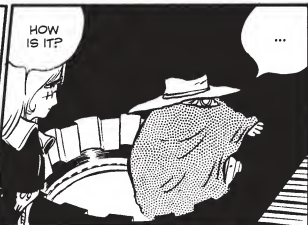
JUST
DECORATIVE
PANELING...
LIKE A
CHANDELIER!!

THIS ISN'T
THE POWER
SOURCE—OR
THE ENGINE.





HOW
IS IT?

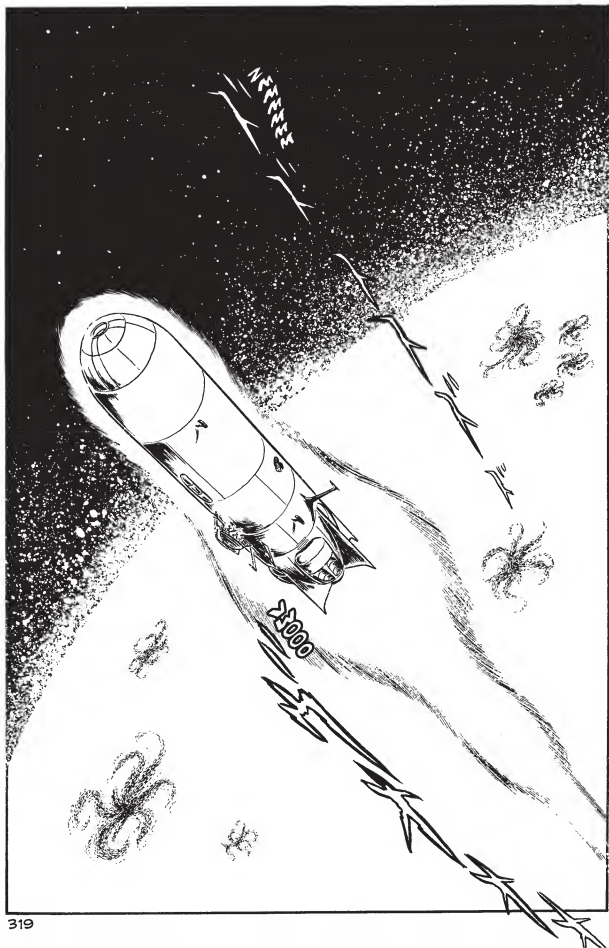


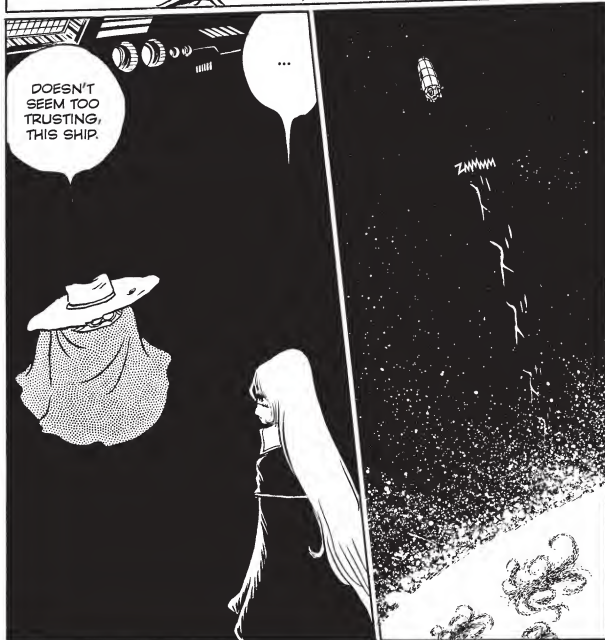
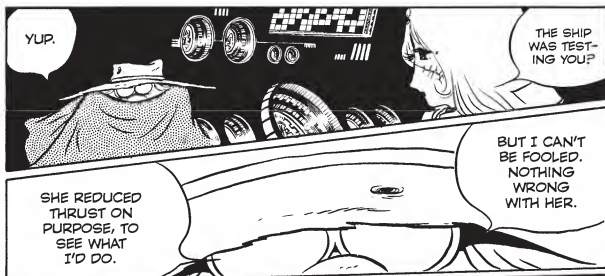
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



SHIP!! YOU
TRYING MY
TALENTS?!
YOU DON'T QUIT
FAKING RIGHT
NOW, I'LL SHOW
YOU WHAT I
CAN DO!!

YOU RAT!!
YOU'RE
NOT
BROKEN
AT ALL!!



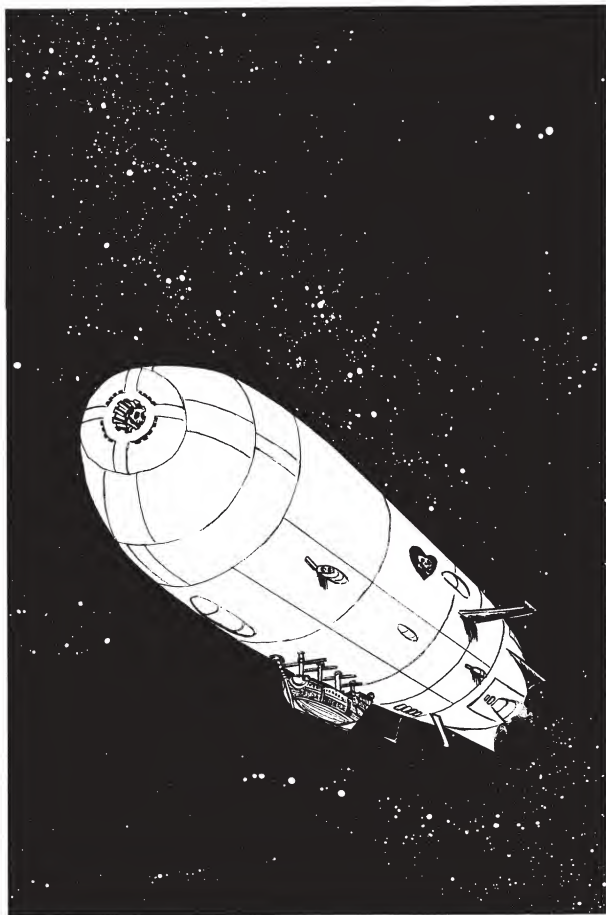




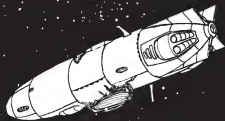
*I HAD NO IDEA A
SHIP WAS CAPABLE OF
SUCH WILLFULNESS...
BUT THERE WAS NO
MISTAKING HER INTENT.*

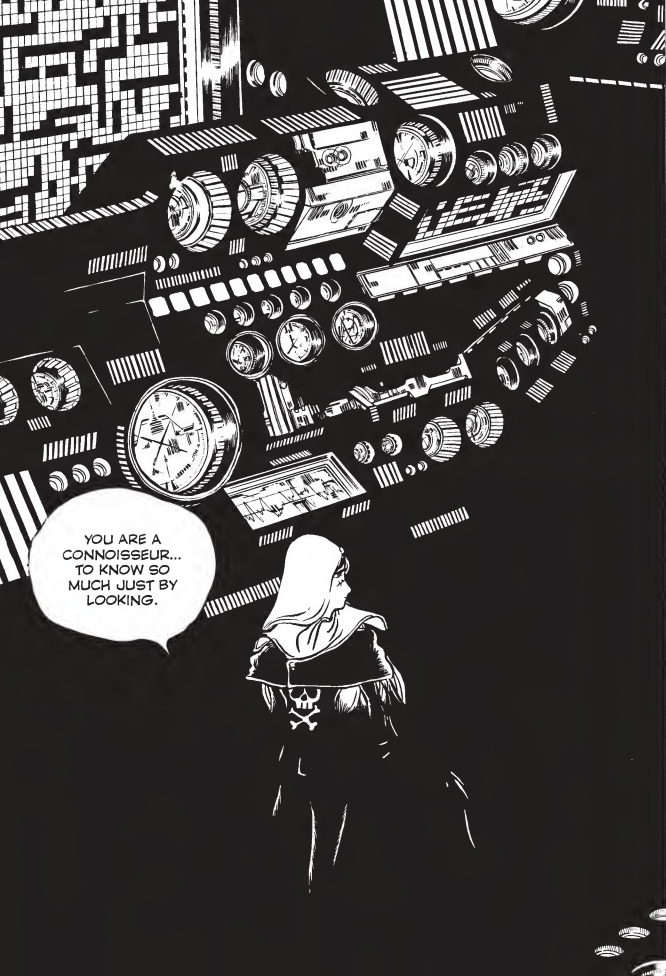


*THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS
EASILY SLIPPED
FROM ZORBAK'S
GRAVITATIONAL
FIELD...*

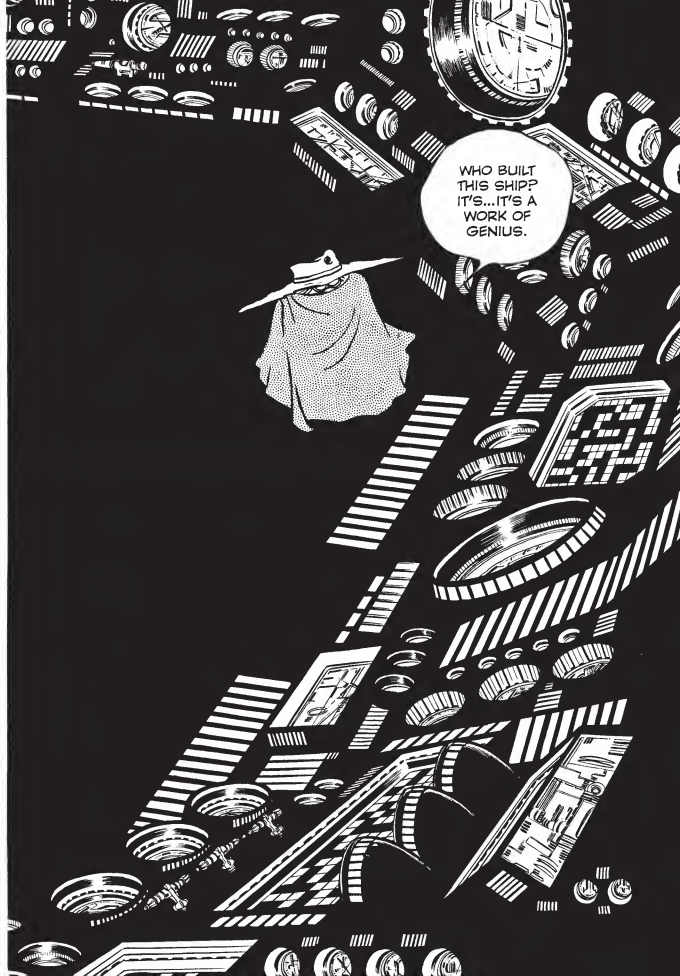


AFTER ZORBAK,
OUR VOYAGE WAS
TRANQUIL, LIKE
SAILING ON A
PLACID LAKE.

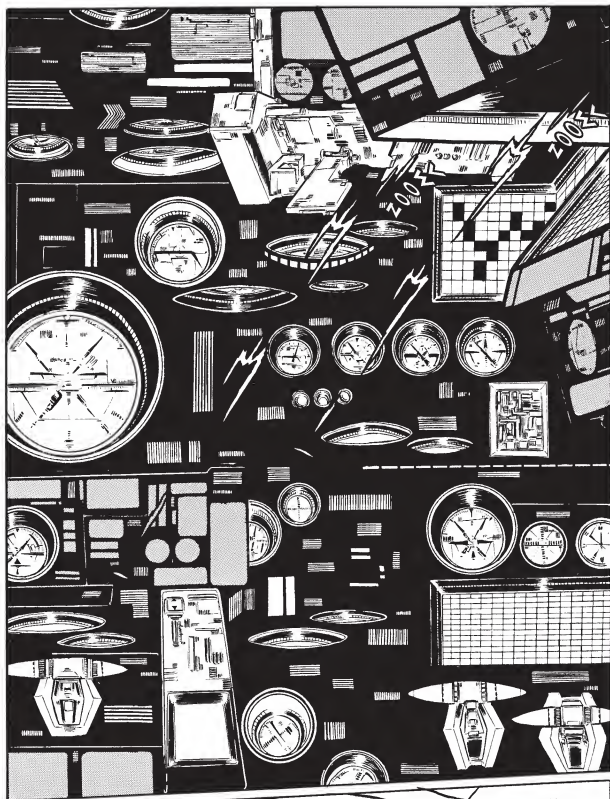




YOU ARE A
CONNOISSEUR...
TO KNOW SO
MUCH JUST BY
LOOKING.

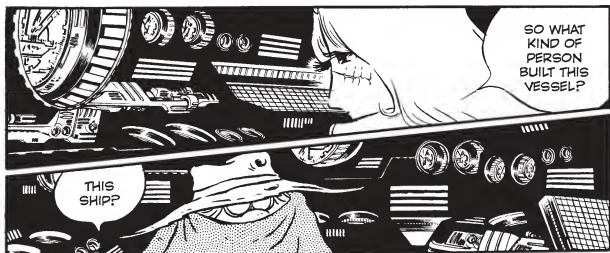


WHO BUILT
THIS SHIP?
IT'S...IT'S A
WORK OF
GENIUS.



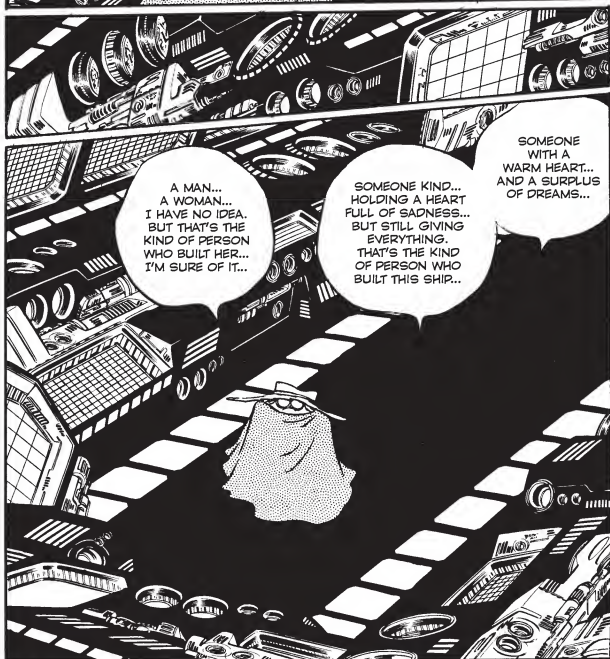
AND THE HEART
OF THE PERSON
WHO DESIGNED
IT IS REVEALED
IN THEIR SHIP...

UNLIKE
HUMANS,
YOU CAN READ
A SHIP AT A
GLANCE.



SO WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
BUILT THIS
VESSEL?

THIS
SHIP?

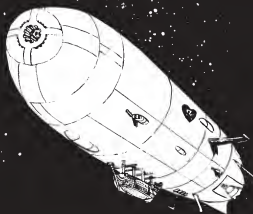


A MAN...
A WOMAN...
I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT THAT'S THE
KIND OF PERSON
WHO BUILT HER...
I'M SURE OF IT...

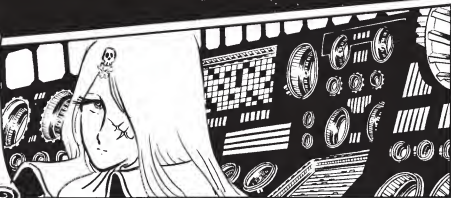
SOMEONE KIND...
HOLDING A HEART
FULL OF SADNESS...
BUT STILL GIVING
EVERYTHING.
THAT'S THE KIND
OF PERSON WHO
BUILT THIS SHIP...

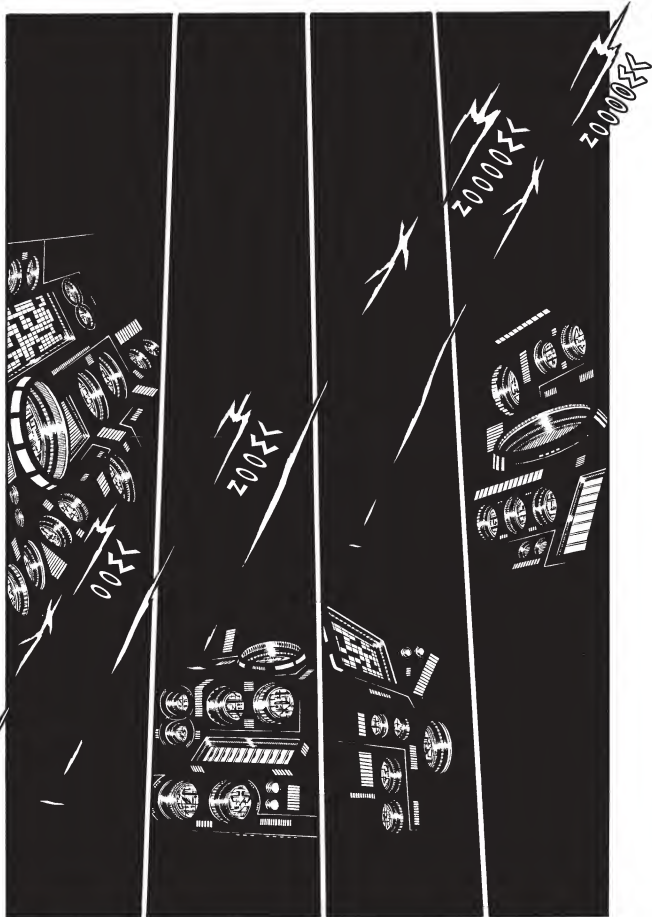
SOMEONE
WITH A
WARM HEART...
AND A SURPLUS
OF DREAMS...

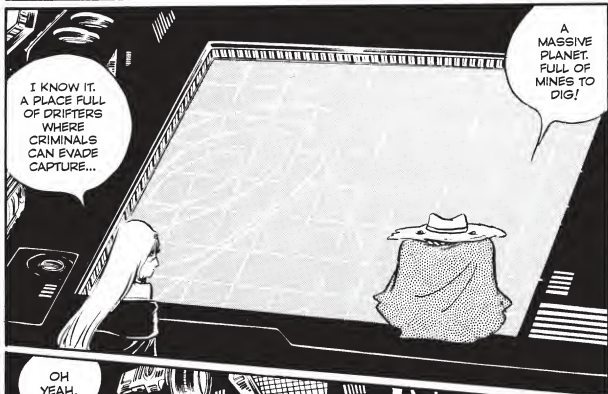
*I AM EMERALDAS.
AT THAT MOMENT,
I FELT THE QUEEN
EMERALDAS
SHUDDER IN
RESPONSE TO
THOSE WORDS.*

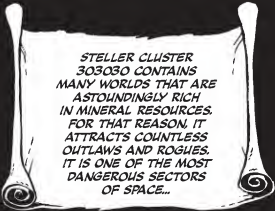


*THE SHIP MUST
HAVE BEEN
REMEMBERING
HER MAKER...*

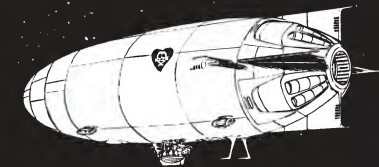






A white scroll with black outlines and decorative swirls at the ends, floating in a dark space filled with stars of varying sizes and brightness.

STELLER CLUSTER
303030 CONTAINS
MANY WORLDS THAT ARE
ASTOUNDINGLY RICH
IN MINERAL RESOURCES.
FOR THAT REASON, IT
ATTRACTS COUNTLESS
OUTLAWS AND ROGUES.
IT IS ONE OF THE MOST
DANGEROUS SECTORS
OF SPACE...



THIS TIME I
HAD NO CHOICE.
I DESCENDED
TO THE SURFACE,
AS HE WISHED...

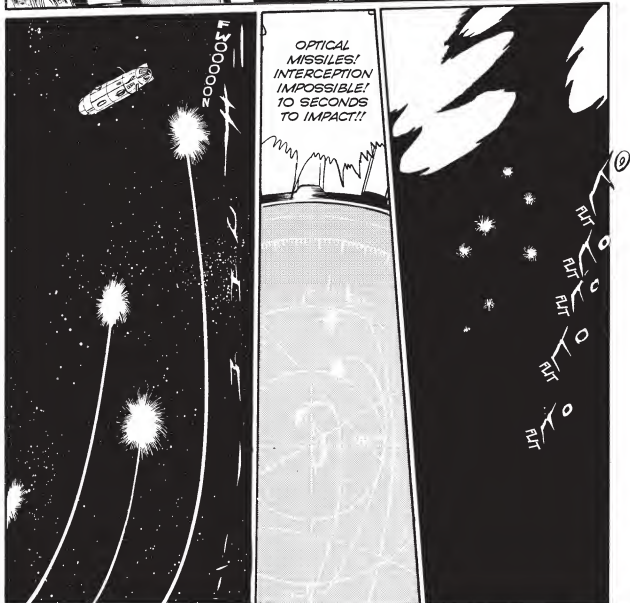
THE PLANET
TRICERATOPS, WITH
ITS SEVEN SATELLITES.
AN EERIE PLANET THAT
GLOWS GREEN. A WORLD
I HAD LONG SEEN FROM
AFAR, AND WAS OFTEN
CURIOUS TO ALIGHT
UPON, BUT NEVER
THOUGHT I WOULD.







FLYING OBJECT
APPROACHING
FROM BELOW AT
HIGH SPEEDS!!



OPTICAL
MISSILES!
INTERCEPTION
IMPOSSIBLE!
10 SECONDS
TO IMPACT!!

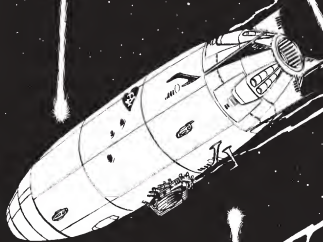


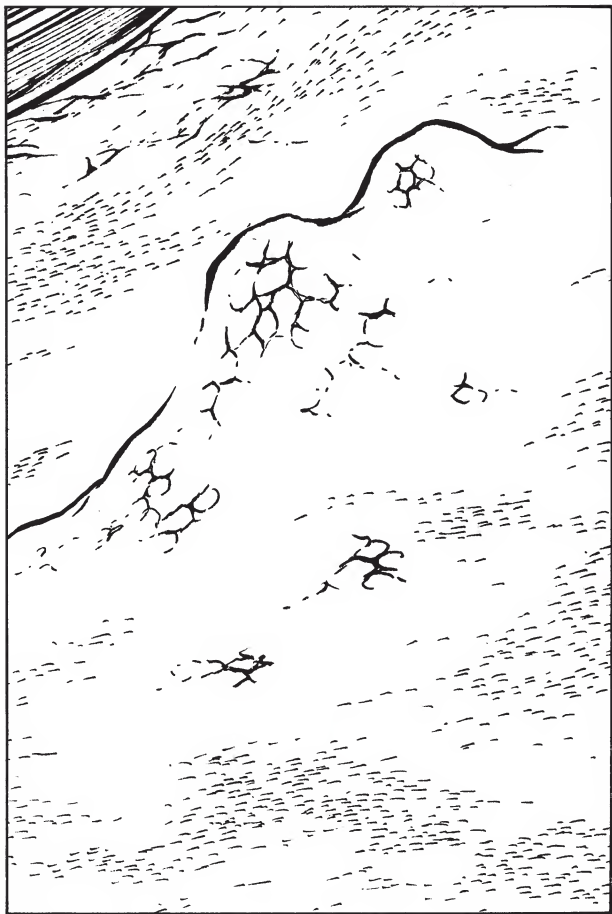
MASSSES OF
ENERGY, FIRED
AT FANTASTIC
SPEEDS.
WE CAN'T
DESTROY
THEM.

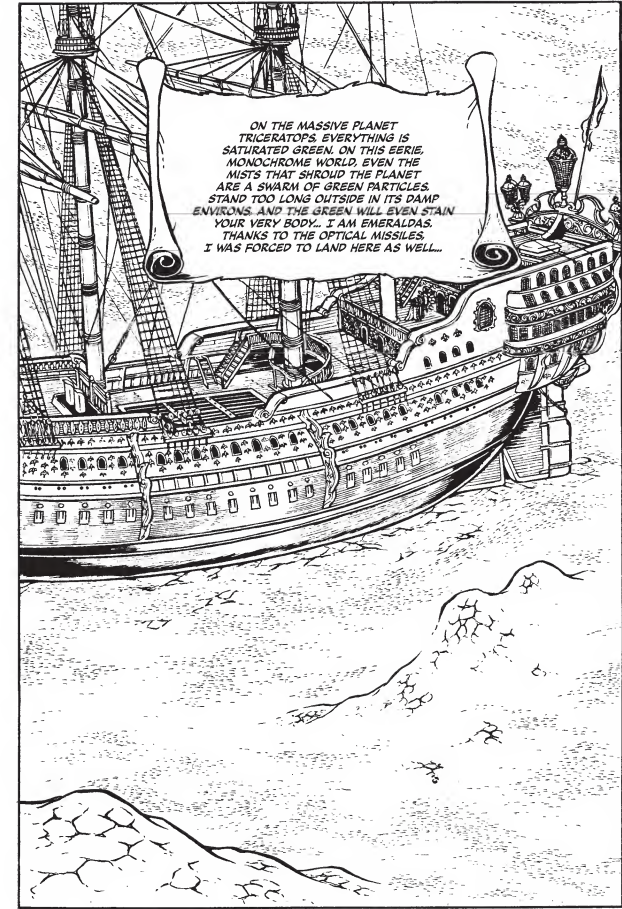
-RUMMMBBLE-

OPTICAL
MISSILES...
RAY-BEAM
BALLISTIC
PROJECTILES...

I AM EMERALDAS.
I NEVER DREAMED
THAT I WOULD BE
GREETED WITH SUCH
NAKED HOSTILITY.
I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND
WHY THIS MAN FELT HE
NEEDED TO LAND ON
THIS PLANET...



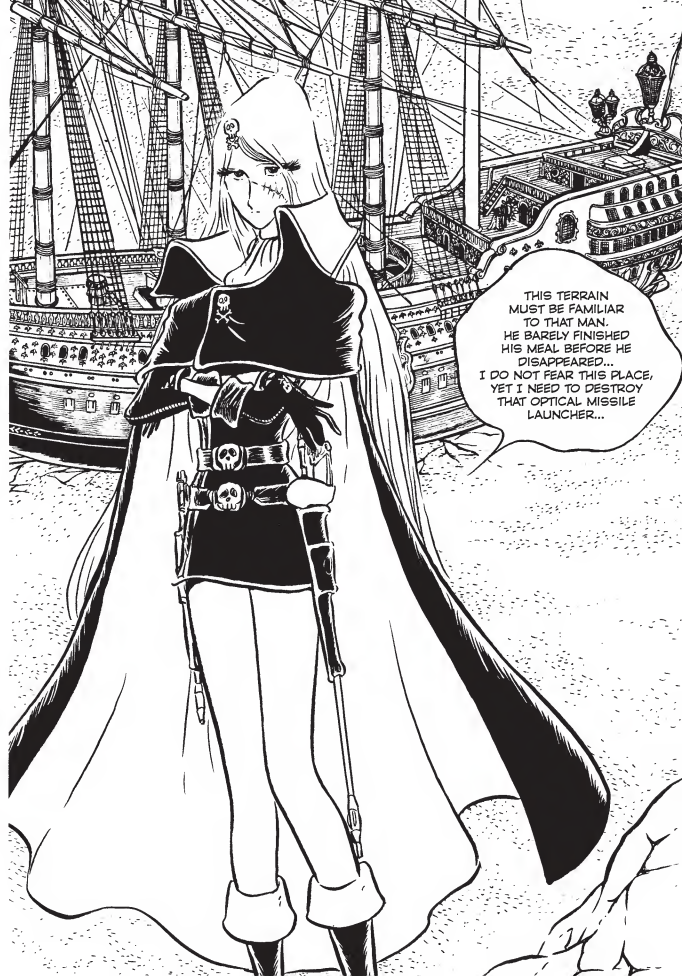


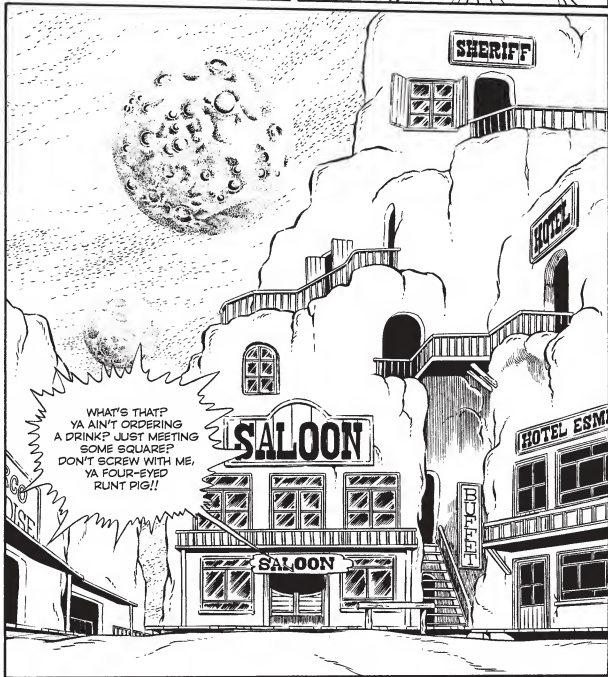
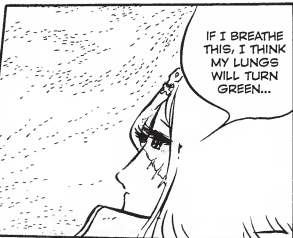
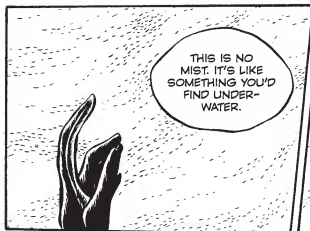


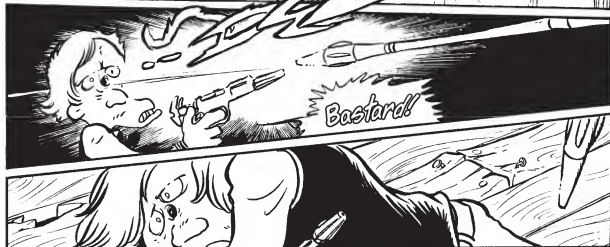
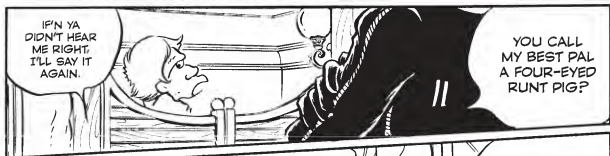
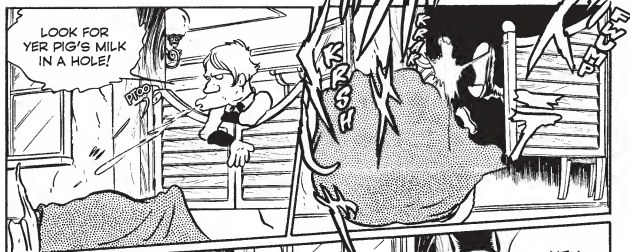
ON THE MASSIVE PLANET
TRICERATOPS, EVERYTHING IS
SATURATED GREEN. ON THIS EERIE,
MONOCHROME WORLD, EVEN THE
MISTS THAT SHROUD THE PLANET
ARE A SWARM OF GREEN PARTICLES.
STAND TOO LONG OUTSIDE IN ITS DAMP
ENVIRONS, AND THE GREEN WILL EVEN STAIN
YOUR VERY BODY.. I AM EMERALDAS.
THANKS TO THE OPTICAL MISSILES,
I WAS FORCED TO LAND HERE AS WELL...

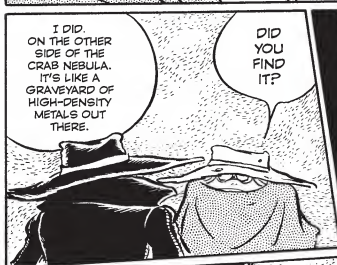


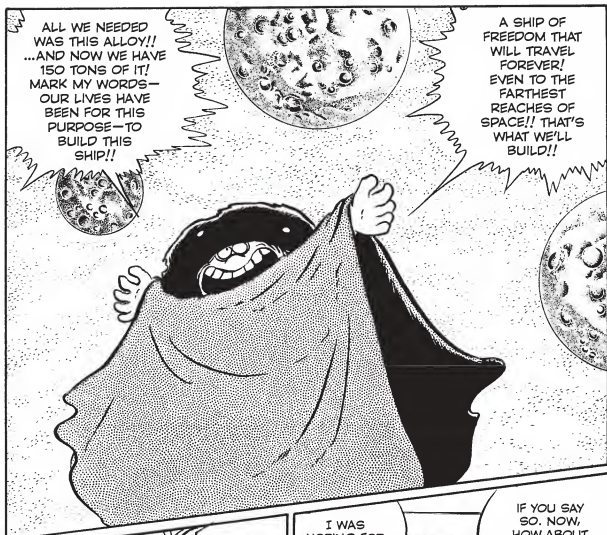
HOW THAT MAN
DEPARTED MY SHIP IS
ETCHED FOREVER IN MY MEMORY.
I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT
HE WANTED HERE OF ALL PLACES.
IN TRUTH, THE MISSILES WERE
NOTHING—I COULD HAVE IGNORED
THEM AND FLOWN AWAY.
BUT SOMEHOW, THAT MAN HAD
BECOME LODGED IN MY HEART.
I WOULD WATCH AFTER
HIM AWHILE MORE...











ALL WE NEEDED
WAS THIS ALLOY!!
...AND NOW WE HAVE
150 TONS OF IT!
MARK MY WORDS—
OUR LIVES HAVE
BEEN FOR THIS
PURPOSE—TO
BUILD THIS
SHIP!!

A SHIP OF
FREEDOM THAT
WILL TRAVEL
FOREVER!
EVEN TO THE
FARTHEST
REACHES OF
SPACE!! THAT'S
WHAT WE'LL
BUILD!!



YOU'RE
BACK NOW!
SO, WHAT
THE HELL!
LET'S
DRINK!!

I WAS
HOPING FOR
SOMETHING
TO EAT,
BUT...

IF YOU SAY
SO. NOW,
HOW ABOUT
A DRINK TO
CELEBRATE?

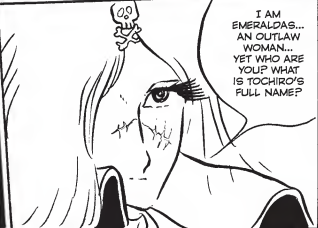
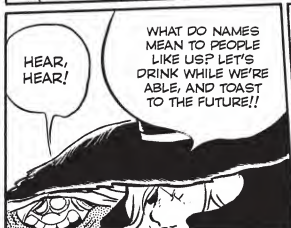
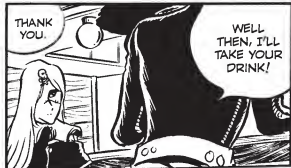
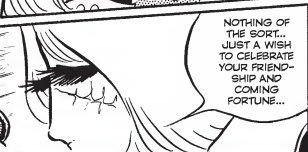
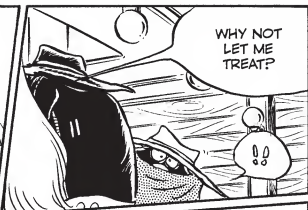
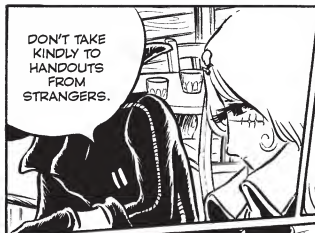


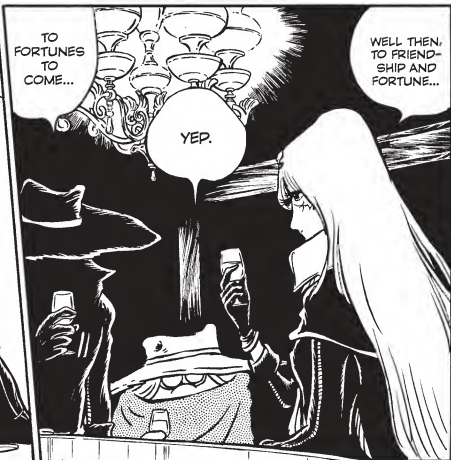
DON'T
WORRY. I
GOT IT.

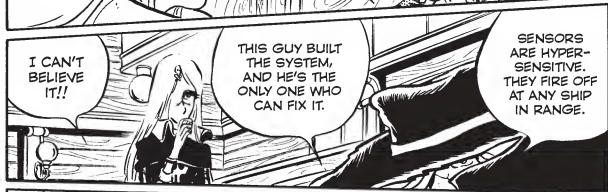
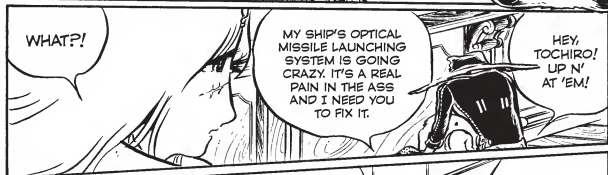
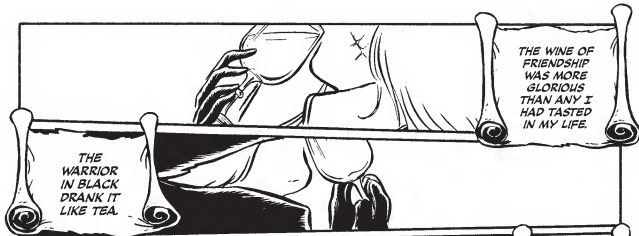
YOU,
UHH...?

I'LL SEE
SOME COIN
FIRST.

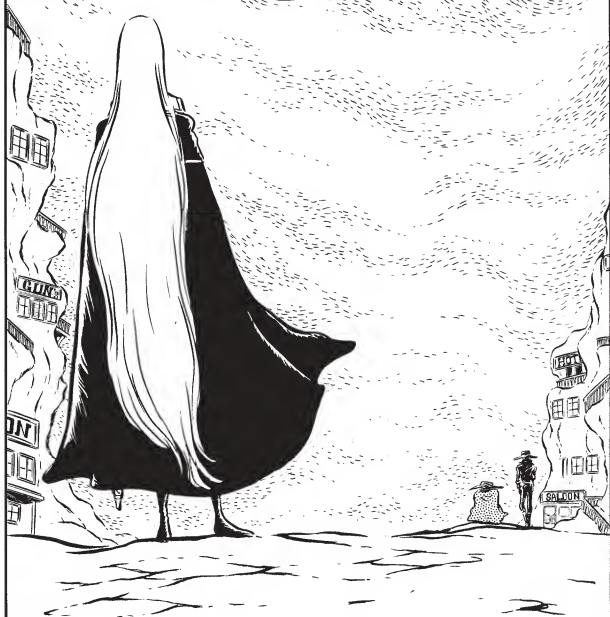
SERVE
US UP,
BARKEEP!



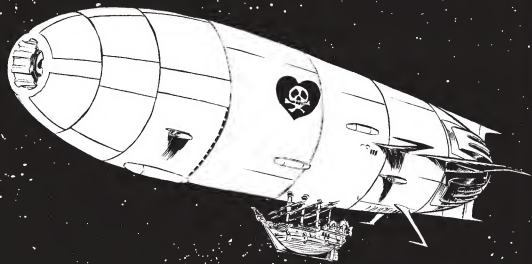




I DO NOT KNOW WHERE
TOCHIRO AND THE WARRIOR
IN BLACK WENT... DEPARTING
TRICERATOPS WITHOUT
LEARNING THEIR DESTINATION
IS A DECISION I REGRET
TO THIS DAY...



AS I FLEW AWAY FROM
TRICERATOPS, IT APPEARED
TO BE A DIFFERENT PLANET THAN
THE ONE I HAD FIRST SEEN.
IT LOOKED LIKE A BEAUTIFUL AND
PEACEFUL WORLD. EVEN THE
GREEN MIST SEEMED LIKE A
LAYER OF PROTECTION,
ENCOURAGING THOSE TO LIVE
THEIR LIVES FREELY, AND TO
GAMBLE ALL FOR THEIR DREAMS.



I AM EMERALDAS. AND PERHAPS I SHOULD
ADMIT THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF MY SEARCH TO
FIND THESE TWO AMONGST THE BOUNDLESS OCEAN
OF STARS. AND YET, I WAVE MY BANNER OF WHITE
BONE ON BLOOD RED, NEVER ENDING MY VOYAGE,
NEVER YIELDING UNTIL THE FIRE OF MY LIFE BURNS
COLD. AND HIROSHI UMINO...PERHAPS ONE DAY HE
WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I TRAVEL THESE SEAS...
I AM EMERALDAS...THE WITCH OF THE SPACEWAYS.
ALONE, I WANDER ACROSS AN INFINITE, COSMIC OCEAN...





QUEEN VOL. 2

EMERALDAS

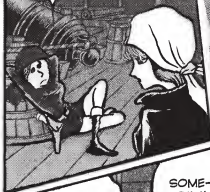
SPECIAL SHORT STORIES

QUEEN VOL. 2
EMERALDAS



PROBABLY
THROWING
HER OWN
FASHION
SHOW IN
THE MIRROR
ROOM TO
KILL TIME.

WHERE'S
THE CAP-
TAIN?



SOME-
THIN'
UP?

YOU'RE GIRLS,
AREN'T YOU?
TIDY YOUR-
SELVES UP,
FOR GOOD-
NESS SAKE!

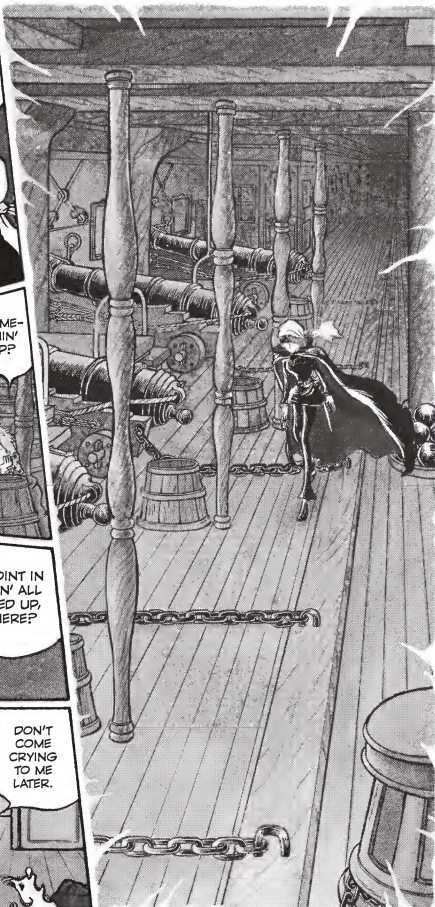


NO POINT IN
GETTIN' ALL
DOLLED UP,
IS THERE?

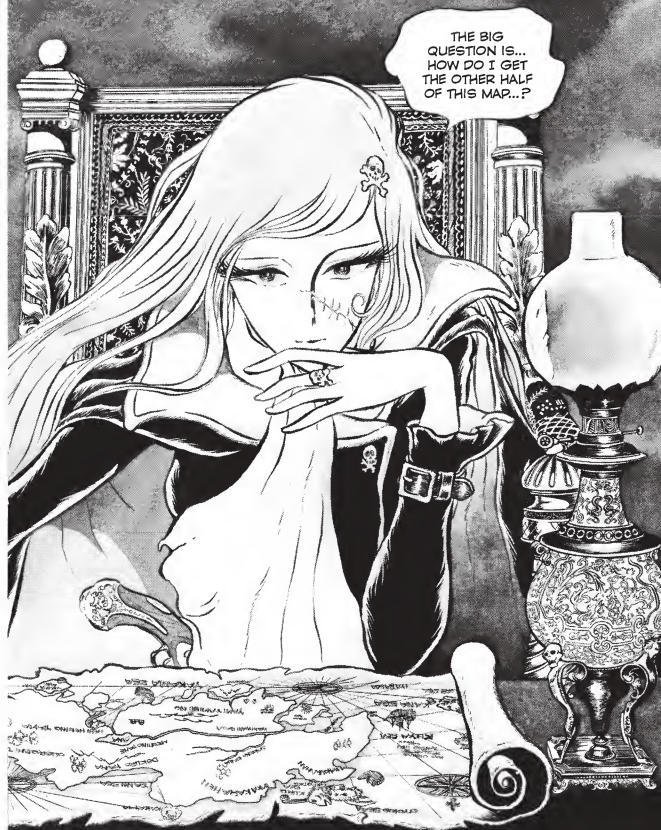


AH,
SHAD-
DUP!

DON'T COME
CRYING
TO ME
LATER.



EMERALDAS



Ah!

THE
SAME
CLASS
...?

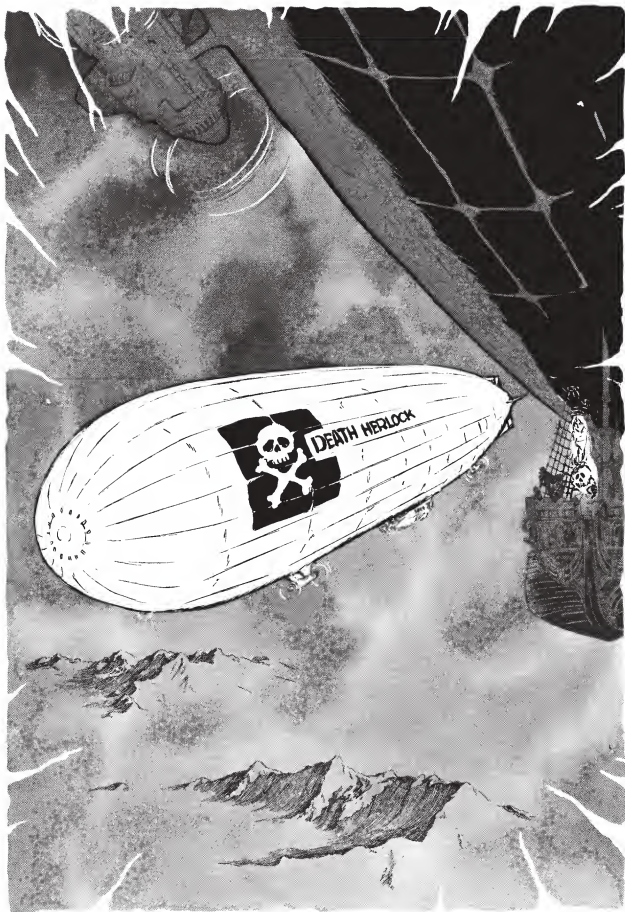
APPROACHING
STARBOARD.
THE SAME CLASS
AS OURS.

WE'VE
SPOTTED
A SHIP.

WHAT SHIP
WOULD BE
HERE, AT THE
PINNACLE OF
MT. EVEREST?!

ANOTHER
SHIP?
NON-
SENSE!





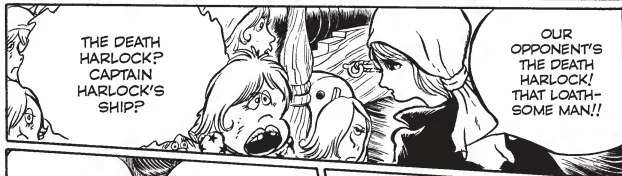


THE DEATH
HARLOCK!
IT'S HIM!!



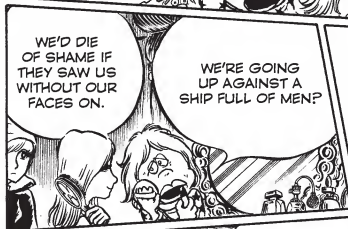
YAWWN...

BATTLE
STATIONS!!
EVERYONE!!



THE DEATH
HARLOCK?
CAPTAIN
HARLOCK'S
SHIP?

OUR
OPPONENT'S
THE DEATH
HARLOCK!
THAT LOATH-
SOME MAN!!



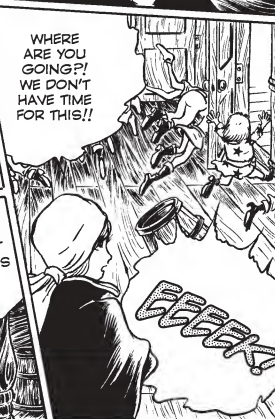
WE'D DIE
OF SHAME IF
THEY SAW US
WITHOUT OUR
FACES ON.

WE'RE GOING
UP AGAINST A
SHIP FULL OF MEN?



COME
ON!!

YOU WERE
DIGGING OUT
YOUR BOOGERS
A SECOND
AGO!!



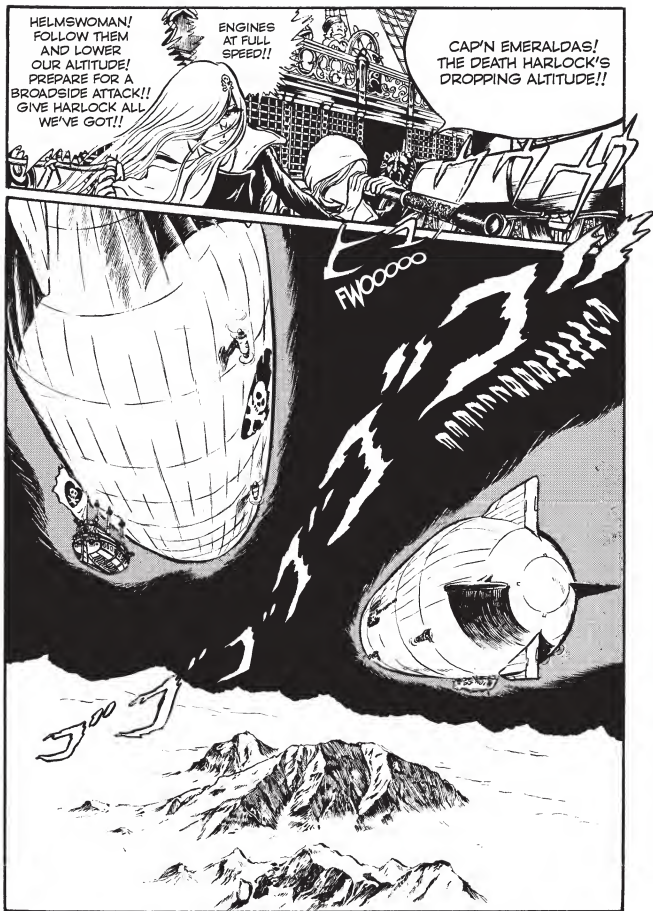
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!!
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!!

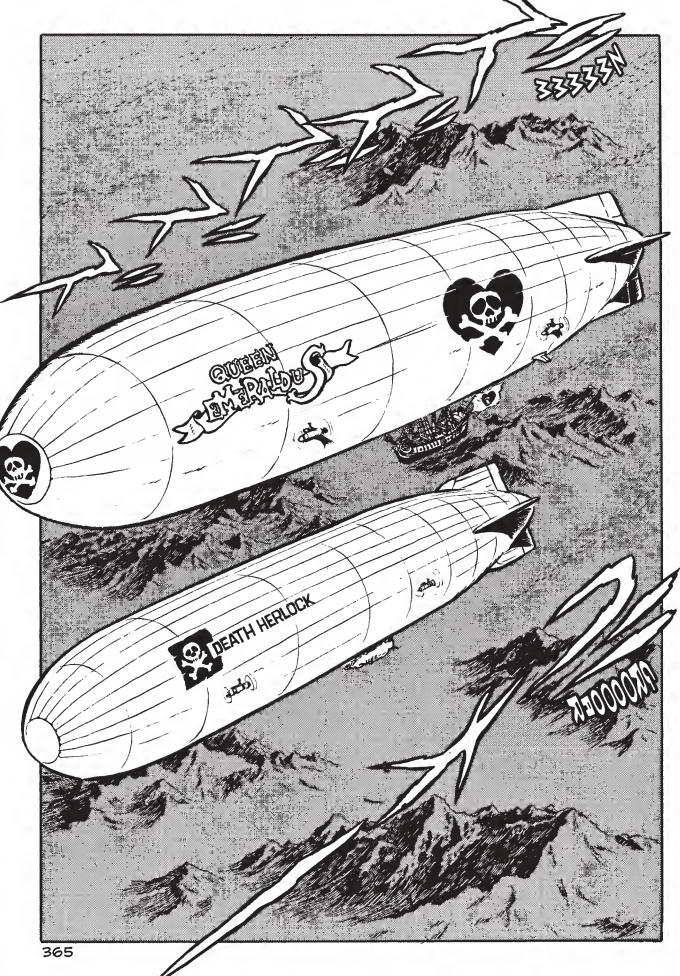
EEEEK!!

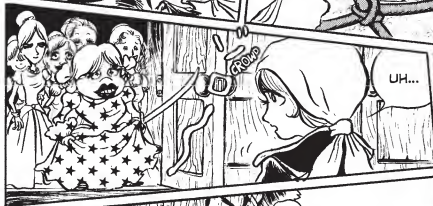
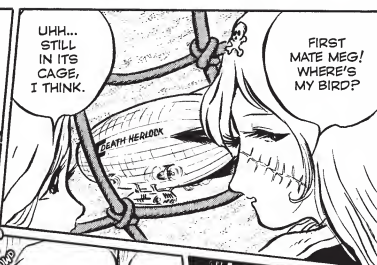
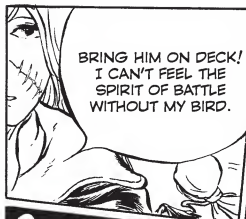
HELMSWOMAN!
FOLLOW THEM
AND LOWER
OUR ALTITUDE!
PREPARE FOR A
BROADSIDE ATTACK!!
GIVE HARLOCK ALL
WE'VE GOT!!

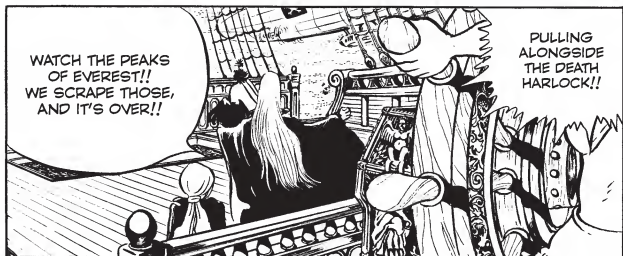
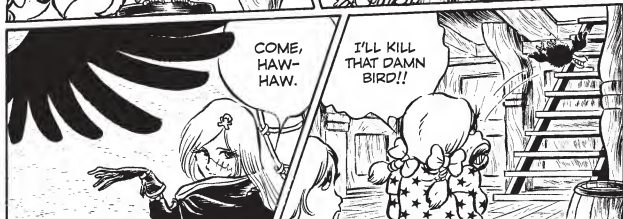
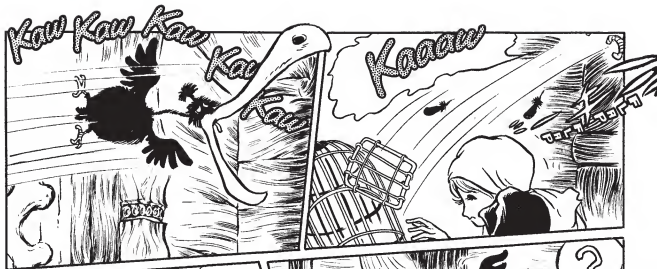
ENGINES
AT FULL
SPEED!!

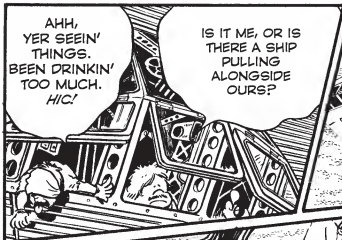
CAP'N EMERALDAS!
THE DEATH HARLOCK'S
DROPPING ALTITUDE!!











AHH,
YER SEEIN'
THINGS.
BEEN DRINKIN'
TOO MUCH.
HIC!

IS IT ME, OR IS
THERE A SHIP
PULLING
ALONGSIDE
OURS?

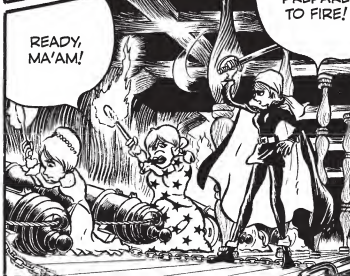
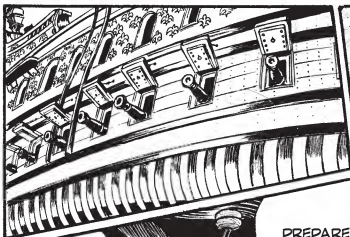


Hic!



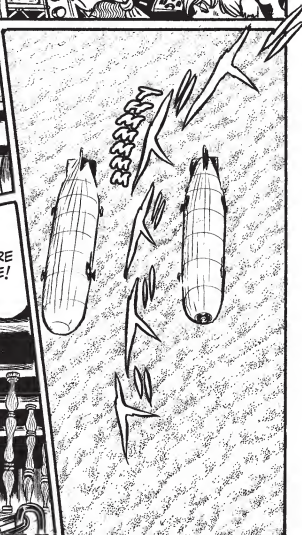
BUT THE
BANNER'S
NOT THE
SAME AS
OURS.

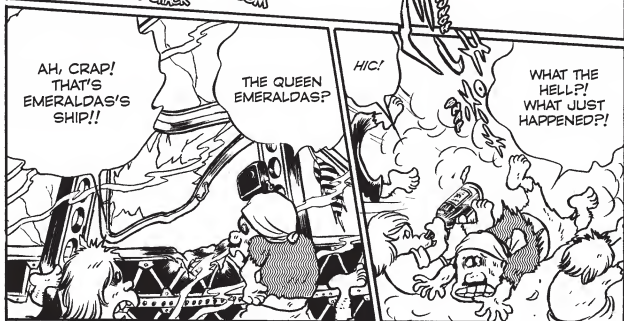
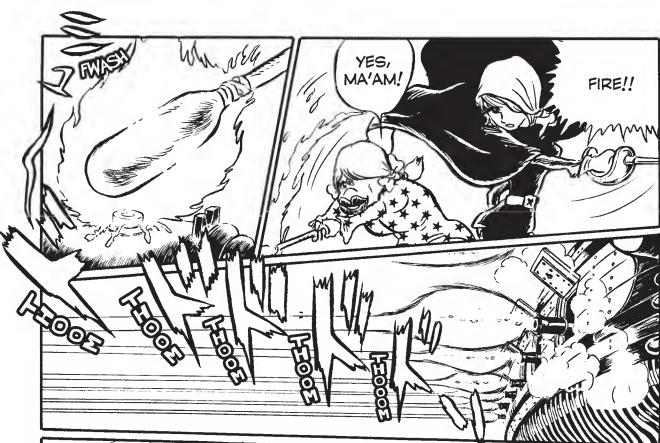
MAYBE THERE'S A
MIRROR IN THE SKY,
AND WE'RE SEEING
OUR REFLECTION
OR SOMETHING...

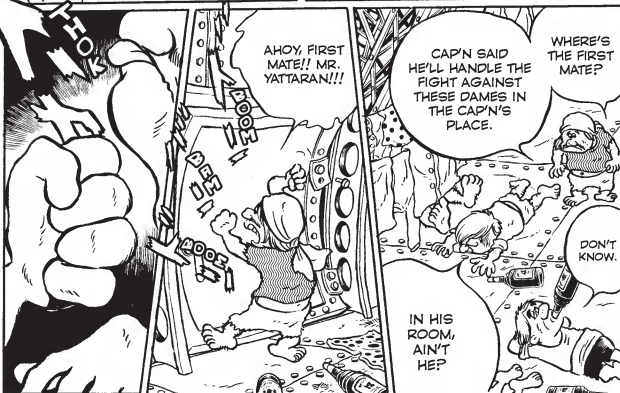
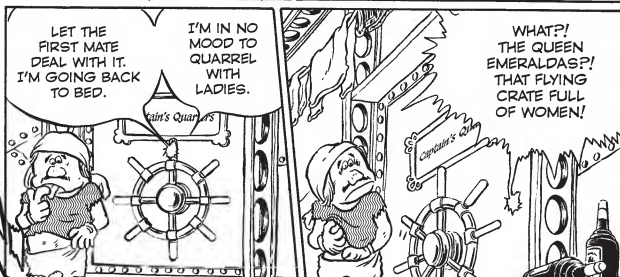
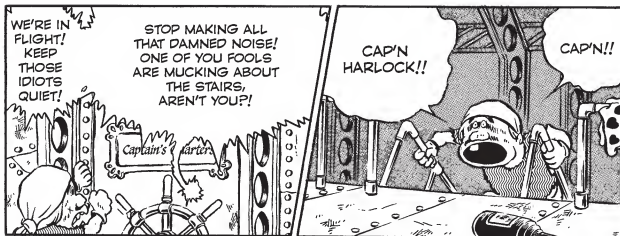


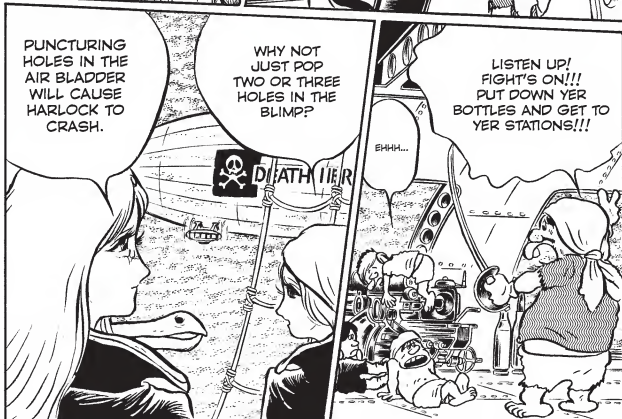
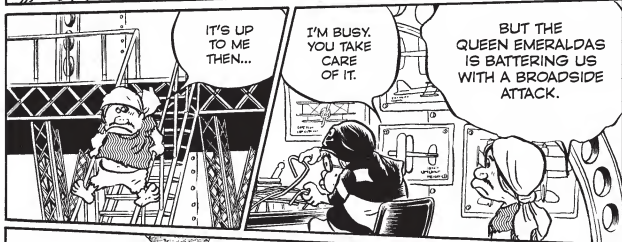
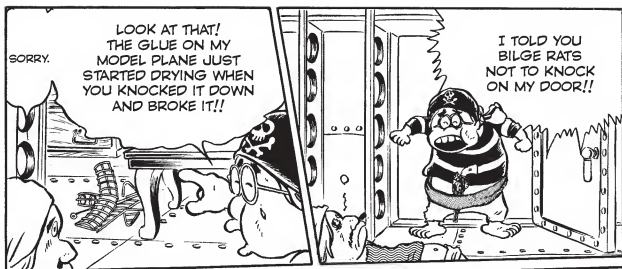
READY,
MA'AM!

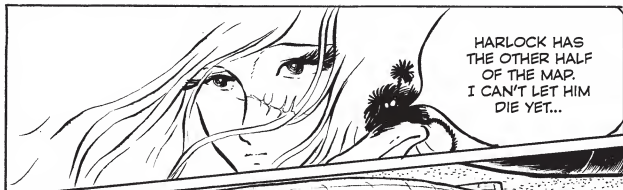
PREPARE
TO FIRE!



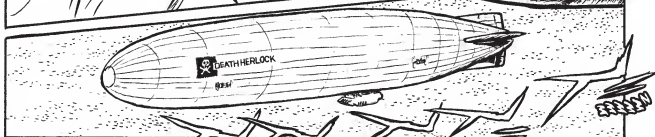








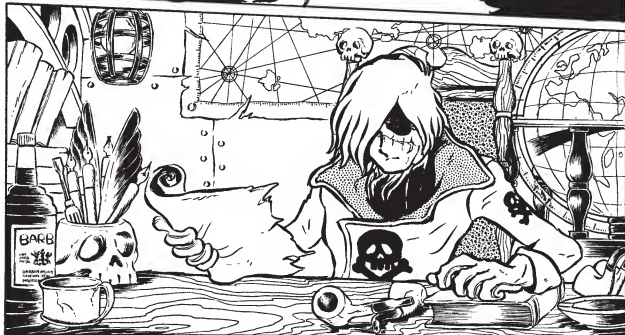
HARLOCK HAS
THE OTHER HALF
OF THE MAP.
I CAN'T LET HIM
DIE YET...

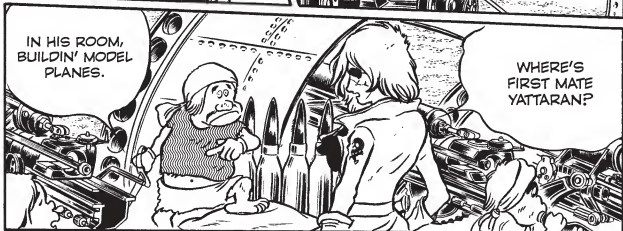
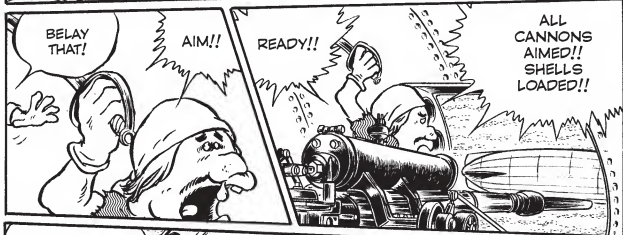
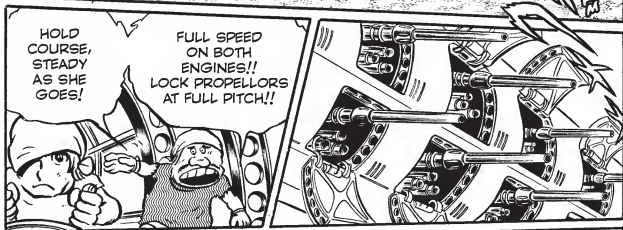
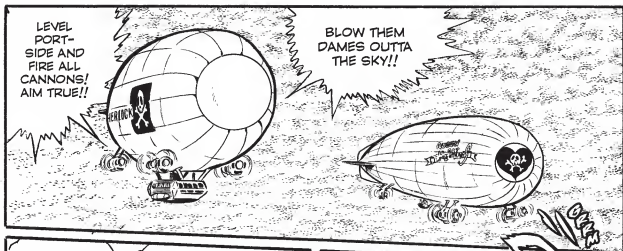


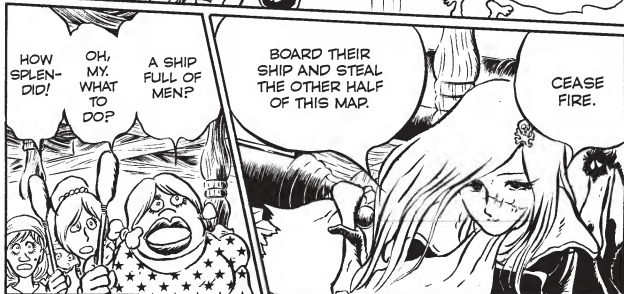
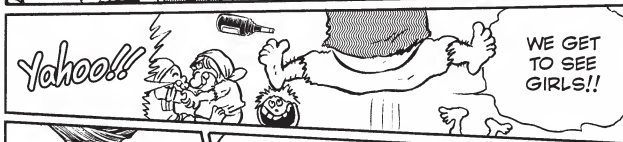
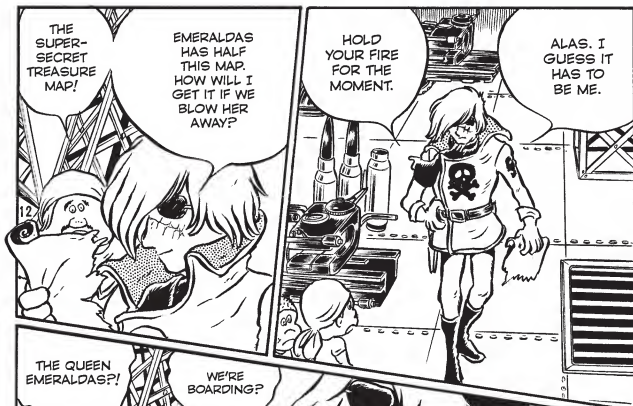
THE SUPER-
SECRET
TREASURE
MAP.



EMERALDAS
MUST HAVE
THE OTHER
HALF...







ALL I
GOT IS
BOOGERS.

GALS LOVE
PRESENTS,
FOR SURE.

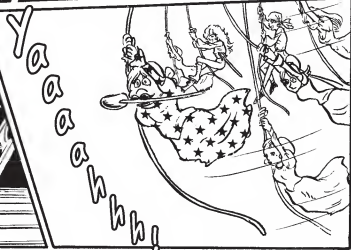
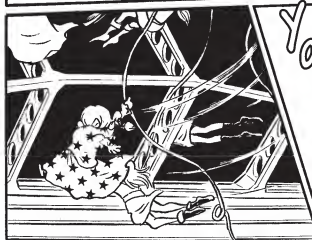
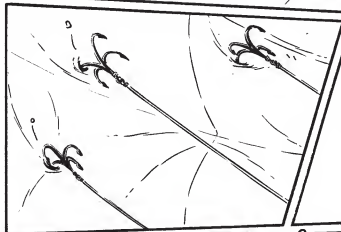
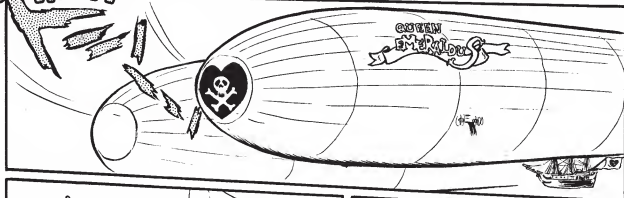
I NEED
A FLOWER
OR SOME-
THING.

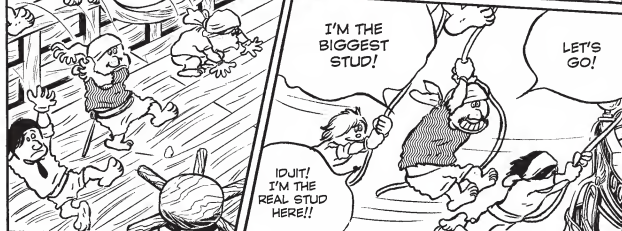
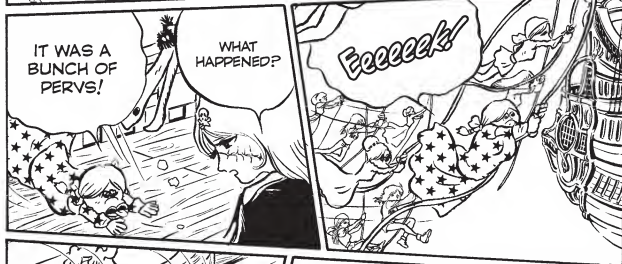
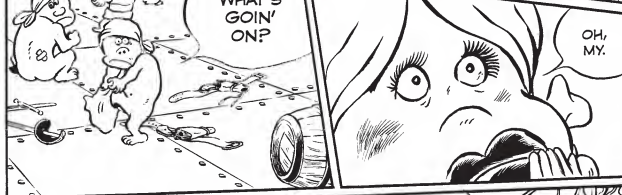
LEAST I COULD
DO IS PUT ON A
PAIR OF UNDIES.
DON'T WANNA
EMBARASS
MYSELF.

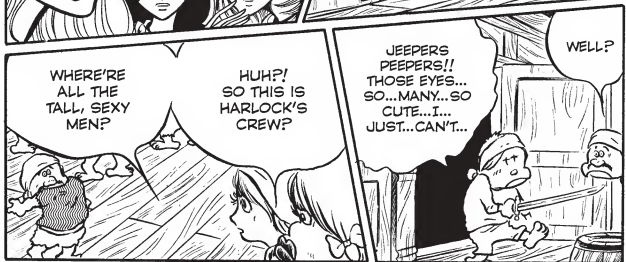
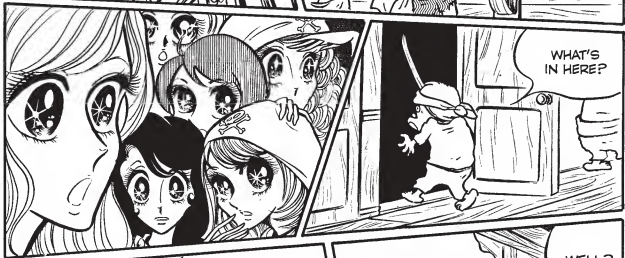
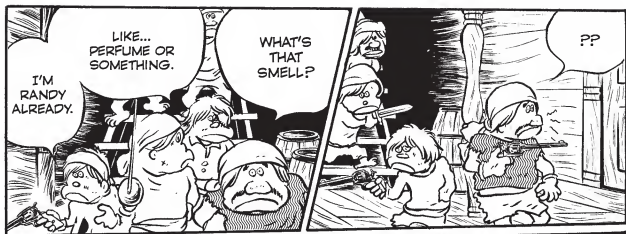
AREN'T WE
BOARDING?

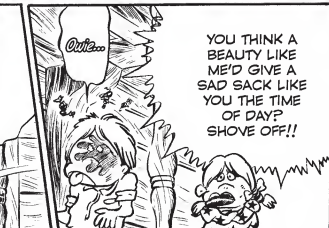
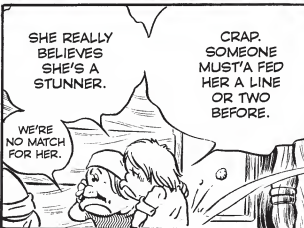
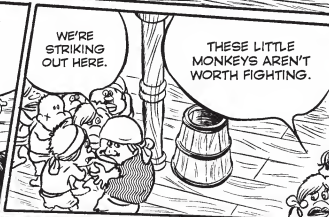
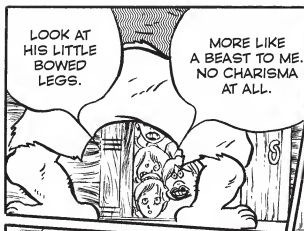
I CAN'T
FIND MY
JOCKSTRAP!

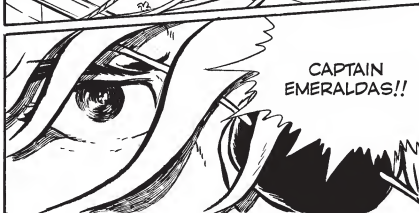
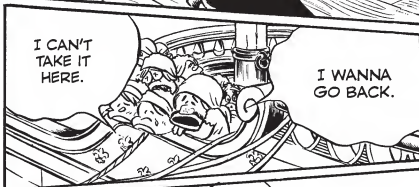
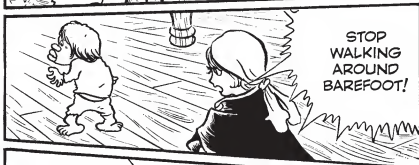
X-WHIM

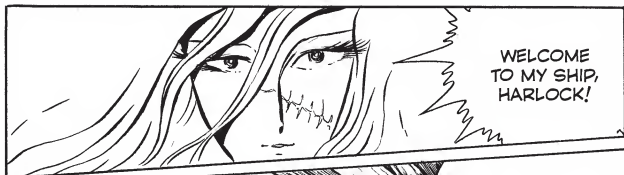










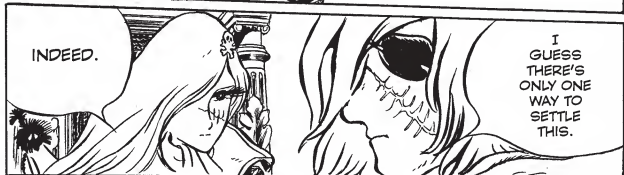


WELCOME
TO MY SHIP,
HARLOCK!



THAT'S
MY
LINE!!

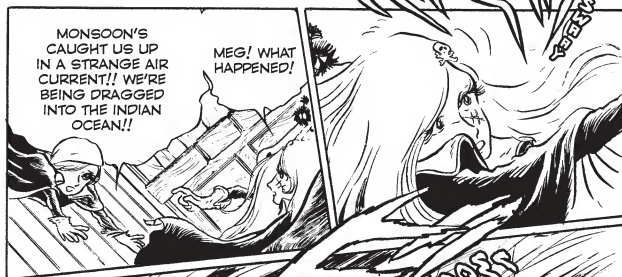
IF YOU VALUE
YOUR LIFE, HAND
OVER YOUR HALF
OF THE MAP.



INDEED.

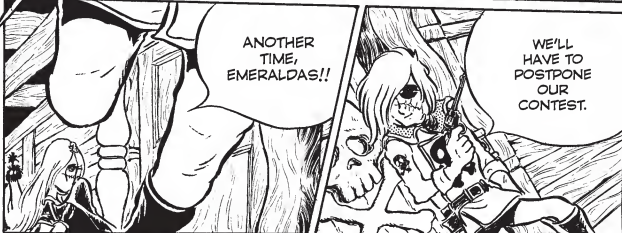
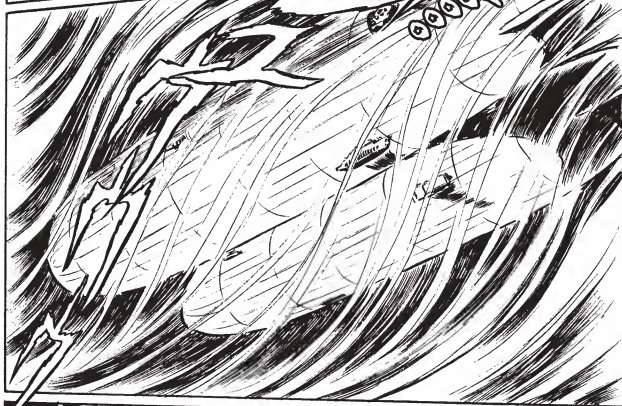
I
GUESS
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
WAY TO
SETTLE
THIS.





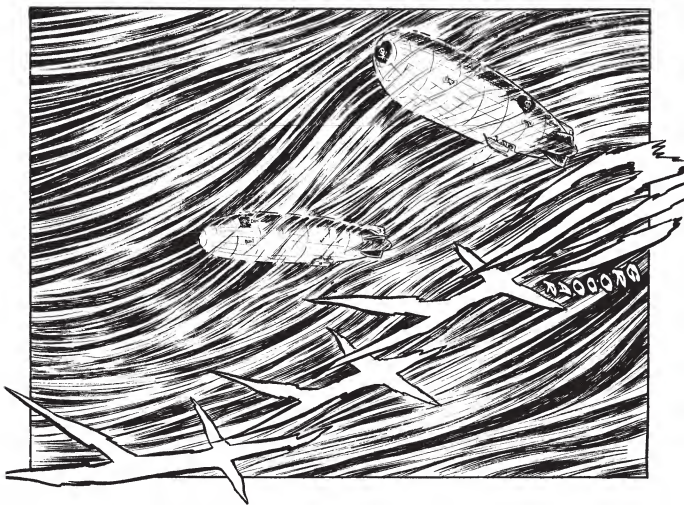
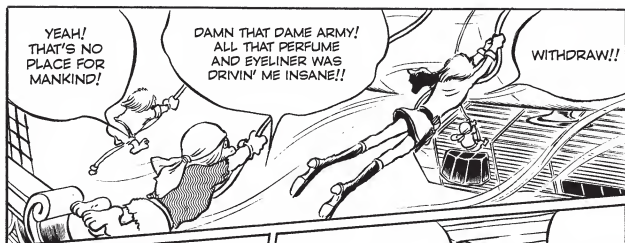
MONSOON'S
CAUGHT US UP
IN A STRANGE AIR
CURRENT!! WE'RE
BEING DRAGGED
INTO THE INDIAN
OCEAN!!

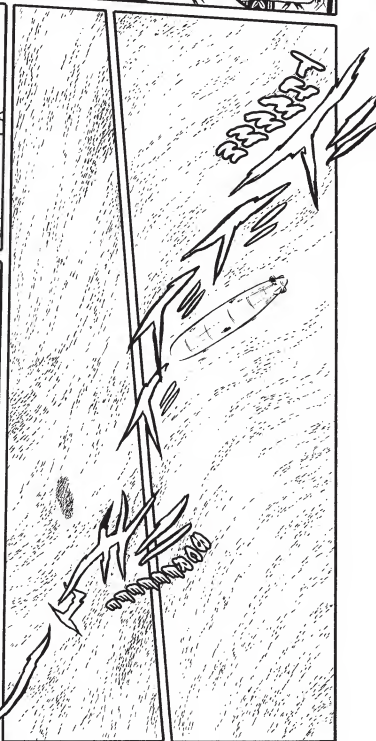
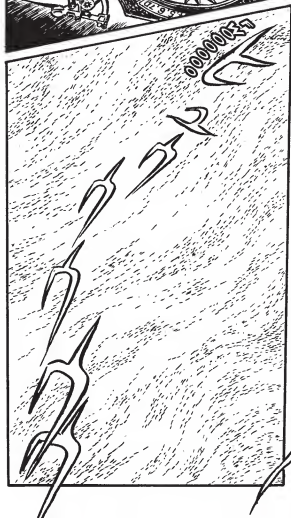
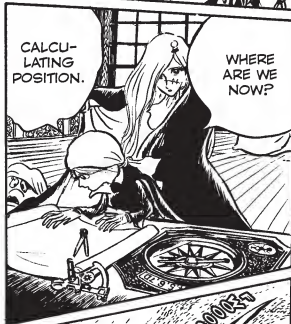
MEG! WHAT
HAPPENED!

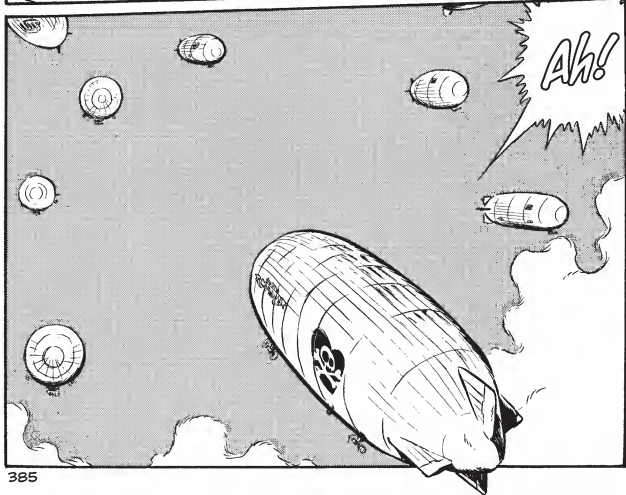
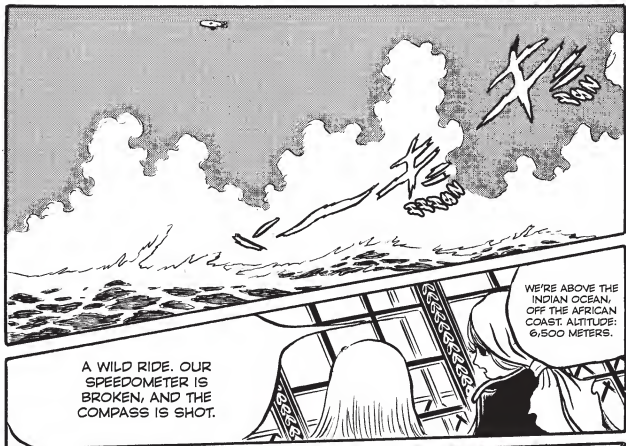


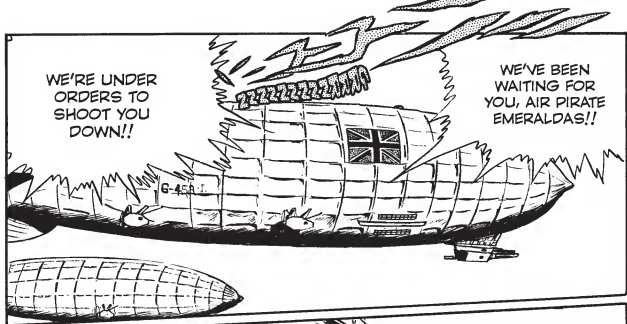
ANOTHER
TIME,
EMERALDAS!!

WE'LL
HAVE TO
POSTPONE
OUR
CONTEST.



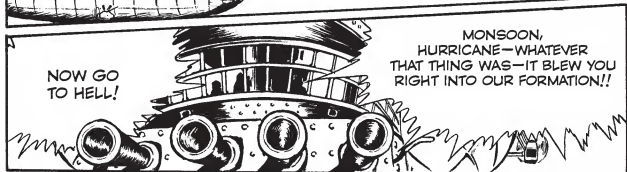






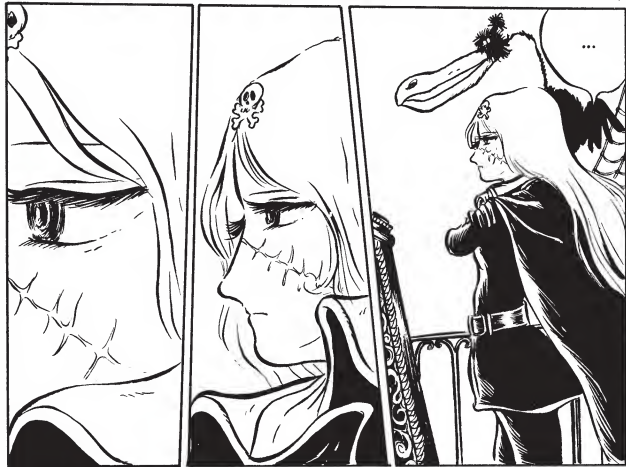
WE'RE UNDER
ORDERS TO
SHOOT YOU
DOWN!!

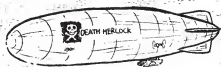
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU, AIR PIRATE
EMERALDAS!!



NOW GO
TO HELL!

MONSOON,
HURRICANE—WHATEVER
THAT THING WAS—IT BLEW YOU
RIGHT INTO OUR FORMATION!!





TIME
TO
FLY!

FINISHED!

LET'S ALL
GO SEE!

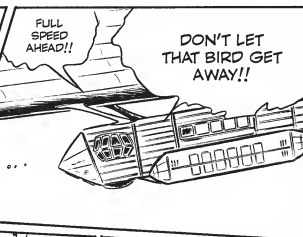
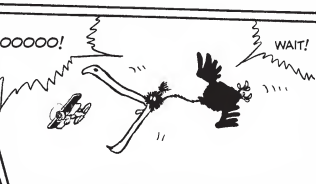
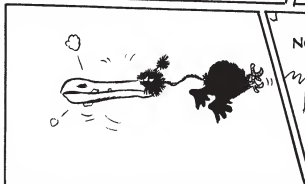
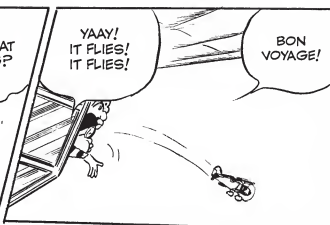
FIRST MATE
YATTARAN'S
GONNA FLY
HIS TOY
PLANE!

THIS
SUPER-
SECRET
MAP...
HMMM...

SO
BE IT.

WELL,
SEEMS THAT
FIRST MATE
YATTARAN'S
GONNA LAUNCH
HIS TOY PLANE,
AND EVERYONE
GATHERED TO
WATCH.

WHY
ARE WE
TILTING?



GO KITTY! BITE
THAT BIRD!!

CHOMP

GO! GO! GO!

ALMOST
THERE!
REAAACH!!

Mrooww
Mrooww
Mrooww

I'LL COOK
YOU UP!
YOU HEAR ME, BIRD?!
YOUR DONE!

ARGH!
STUPID BIRD
SWALLOWED
UP MY PLANE!

HEY...
LOOKIT
THAT...
YER BIRD...

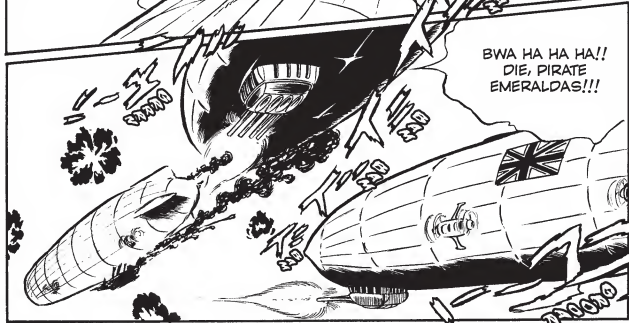
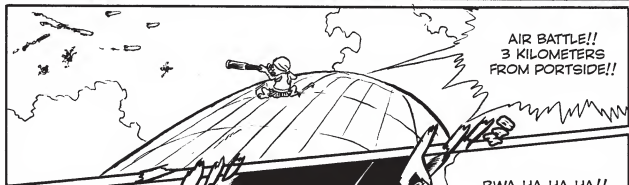
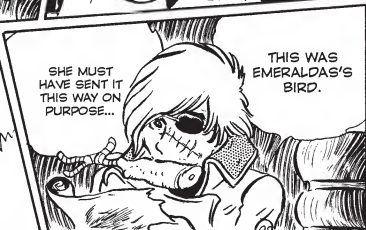
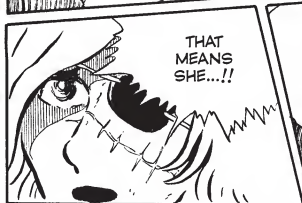
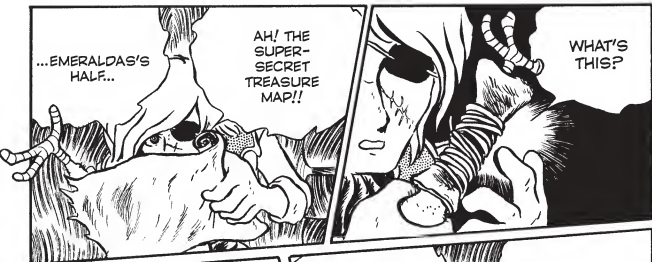
FAIR
ENOUGH.

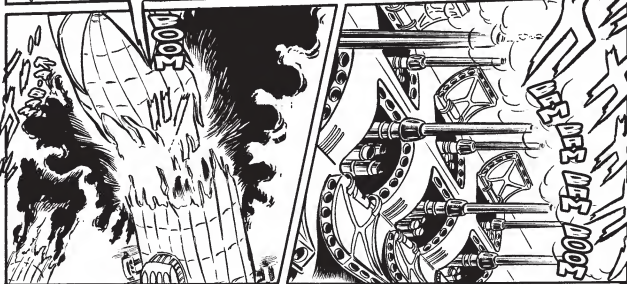
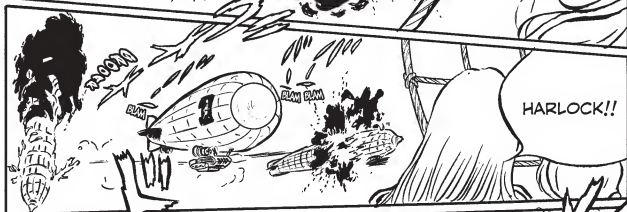
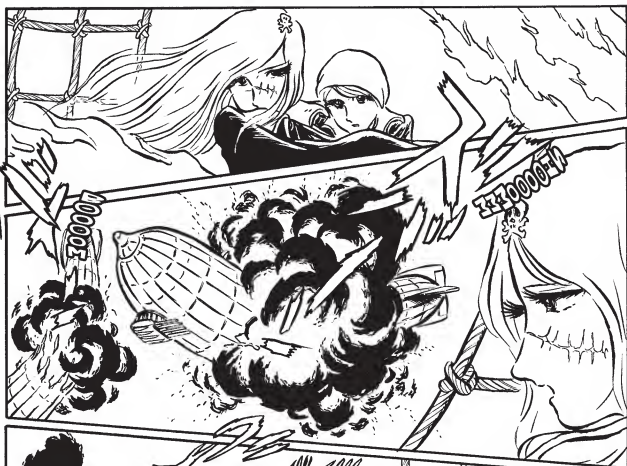
FINE. BUT THE
BIGGEST PIECE
IS MINE, SINCE IT
WAS MY PLANE
THAT CAUGHT IT.

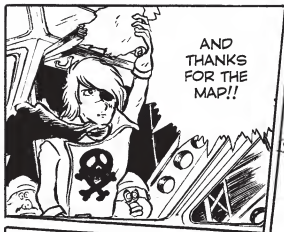
I WANT
SOME OF
THAT.

CAPTAIN!

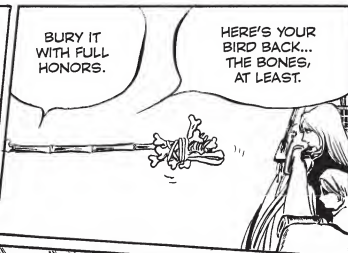
LOOKS
GOOD.





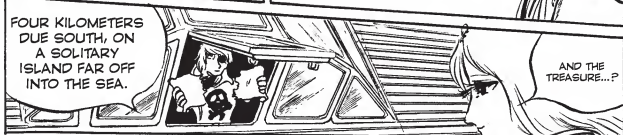


AND
THANKS
FOR THE
MAP!!



BURY IT
WITH FULL
HONORS.

HERE'S YOUR
BIRD BACK...
THE BONES,
AT LEAST.

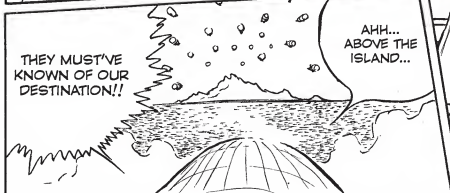


FOUR KILOMETERS
DUE SOUTH, ON
A SOLITARY
ISLAND FAR OFF
INTO THE SEA.

AND THE
TREASURE...?



THERE!



THEY MUST'VE
KNOWN OF OUR
DESTINATION!!

AHH...
ABOVE THE
ISLAND...

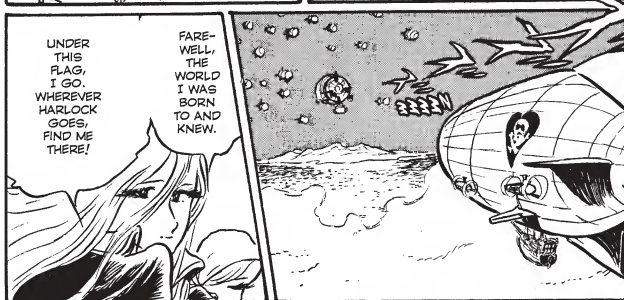
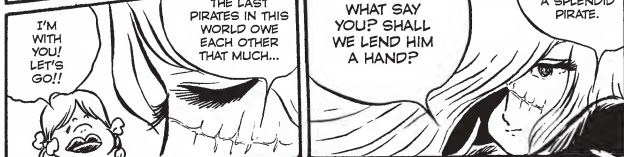
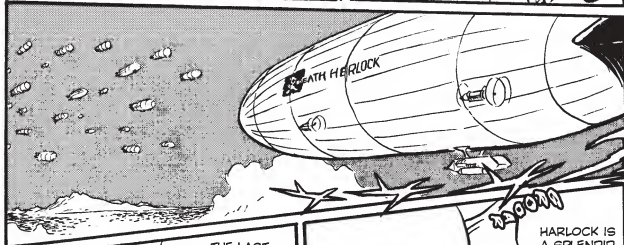


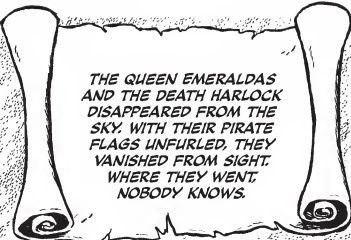
EVEN
IF THE
TREASURE'S
GONE!
I'LL GO!!

I'LL GO TO
THAT ISLAND NO
MATTER WHAT.
EVEN IF IT'S AN
AMBUSH.

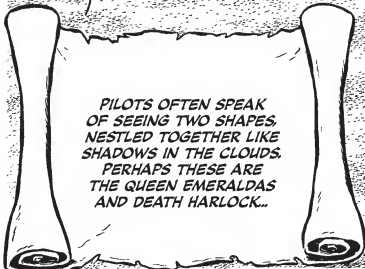


FAREWELL,
EMERALDAS!
I'LL SEE YOU
THERE!



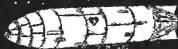
A scroll with a rough, torn edge and two circular binding holes at the bottom. It is positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

THE QUEEN EMERALDAS
AND THE DEATH HARLOCK
DISAPPEARED FROM THE
SKY. WITH THEIR PIRATE
FLAGS UNFURLED, THEY
VANISHED FROM SIGHT.
WHERE THEY WENT,
NOBODY KNOWS.

A scroll with a rough, torn edge and two circular binding holes at the bottom. It is positioned in the lower left corner of the page.

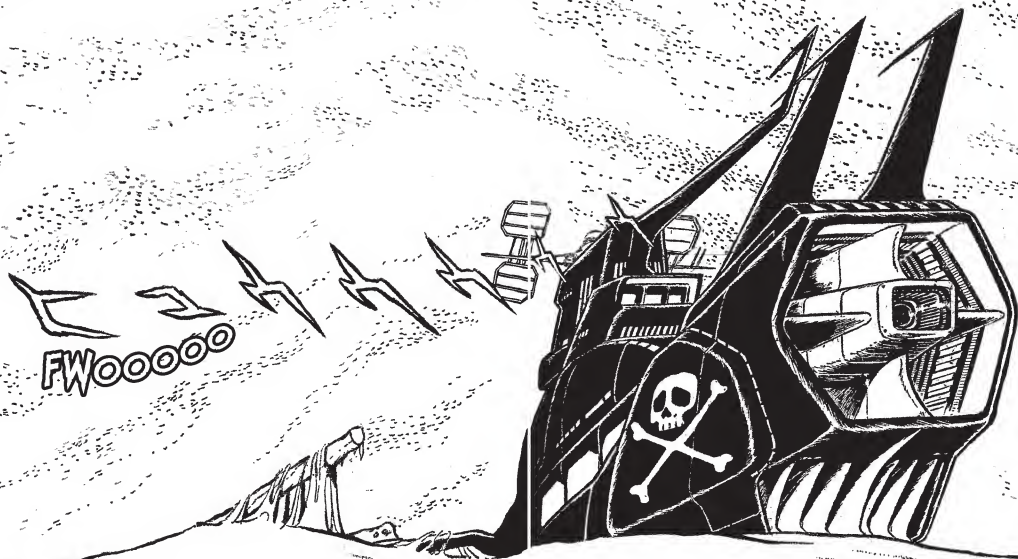
PILOTS OFTEN SPEAK
OF SEEING TWO SHAPES,
NESTLED TOGETHER LIKE
SHADOWS IN THE CLOUDS.
PERHAPS THESE ARE
THE QUEEN EMERALDAS
AND DEATH HARLOCK...

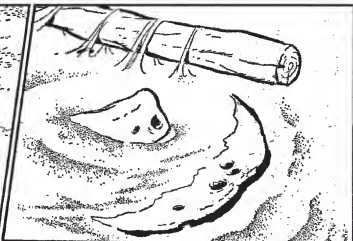
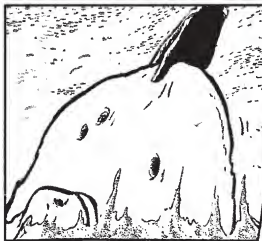
I AM EMERALDAS.
I HAVE SPENT A MONTH FLOATING
ABOVE THE PLANET HEAVY METAL
IN MY SHIP, THE QUEEN EMERALDAS...
HERE...IS A PLACE I CAN NEVER
FORGET, NO MATTER HOW MUCH
I WISH OTHERWISE...FOR THIS
IS WHERE MY MEMORIES SLEEP,
FROZEN IN TIME...



QUEEN EMERALDAS

HERE I SAW
SOMETHING I
THOUGHT I WOULD
NEVER SEE AGAIN.
THE GRAVE MARKER OF
MY YOUTH, LEFT BEHIND
AS IF BY A MIRACLE...

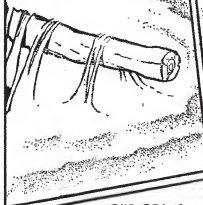




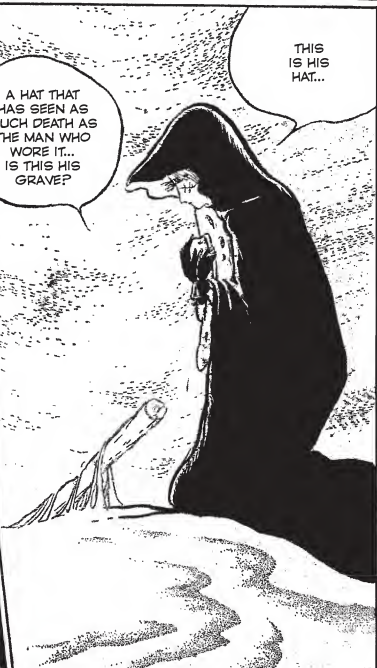
YET...THERE
IS NOTHING
BENEATH THIS
SAND...NO
ONE BURIED
HERE...

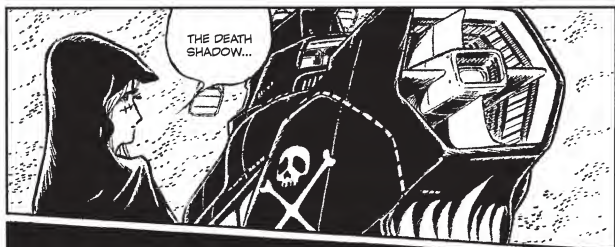
A HAT THAT
HAS SEEN AS
MUCH DEATH AS
THE MAN WHO
WORE IT...
IS THIS HIS
GRAVE?

THIS
IS HIS
HAT...



THIS GRAVE
MARKER, THIS HAT...
IT'S AS IF SOMEONE
WENT OUT OF THEIR
WAY TO TRAMPLE
OVER THEM AND
COVER THEM IN
SAND...





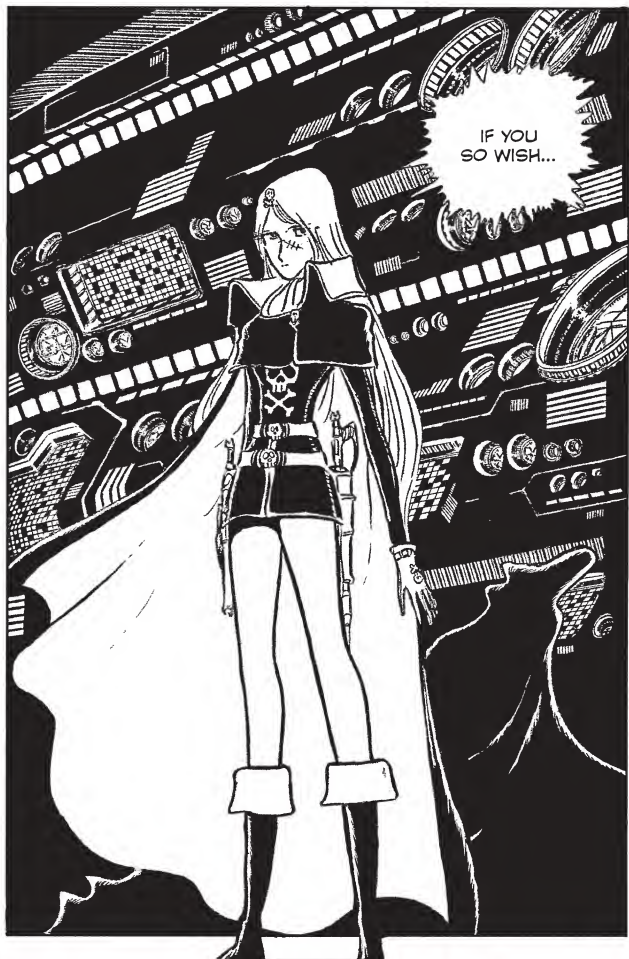


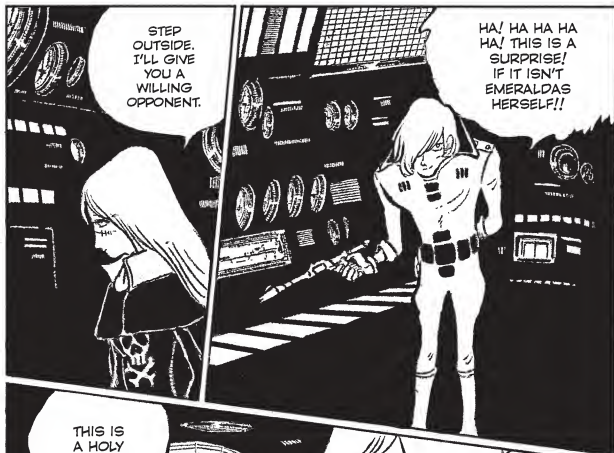
TAKE OFF
THAT CLOAK
AND SHOW
ME WHO
YOU ARE!!

THIS IS
MY SHIP.
I DO AS I
PLEASE.

WHO
ARE YOU?
WHAT FOOL
DARES
FIRE ON
ME, INSIDE
THIS SHIP?

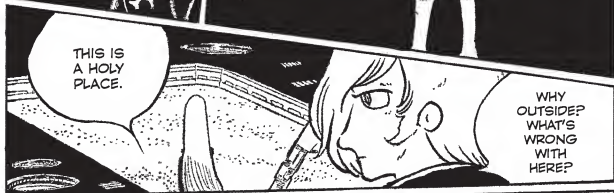
IF YOU
SO WISH...





STEP
OUTSIDE.
I'LL GIVE
YOU A
WILLING
OPPONENT.

HA! HA HA HA
HA! THIS IS A
SURPRISE!
IF IT ISN'T
EMERALDAS
HERSELF!!



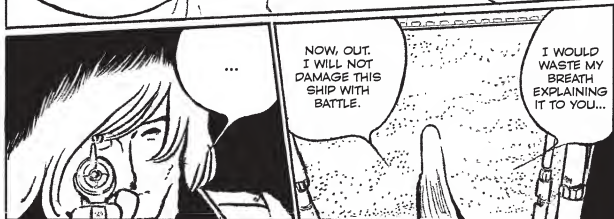
THIS IS
A HOLY
PLACE.

WHY
OUTSIDE?
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
HERE?



THIS IS THE
DEATH SHADOW!
AND THE MAN WHO
TRAVELED WITH
HER THROUGH
THE OCEAN OF
STARS...

YOU DON'T
KNOW, DO YOU?
WHAT KIND OF
MAN ONCE SAILED
THIS SHIP...

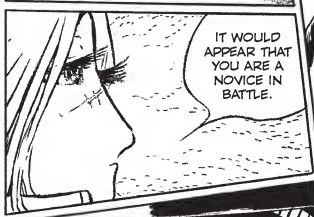
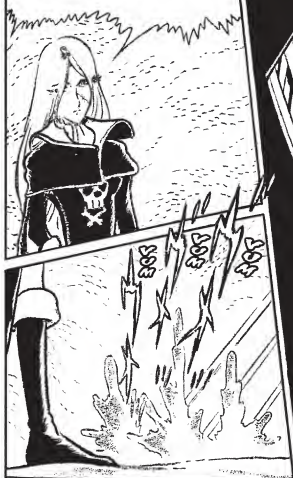


...
NOW, OUT.
I WILL NOT
DAMAGE THIS
SHIP WITH
BATTLE.

I WOULD
WASTE MY
BREATH
EXPLAINING
IT TO YOU...

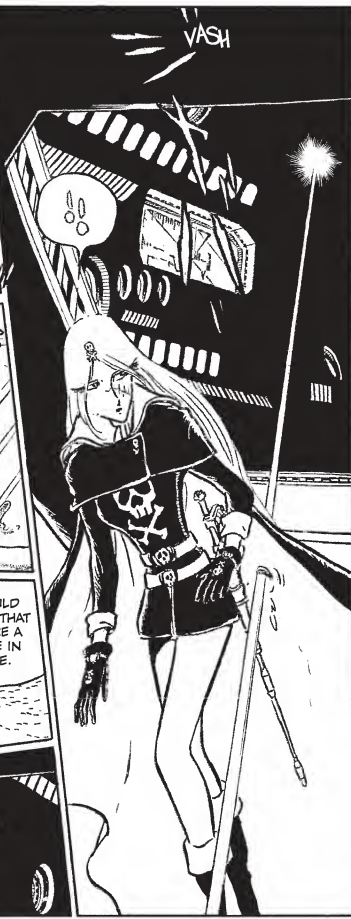
COWARD!!
ARE YOU
AFRAID TO
FACE ME OUT
HERE?!

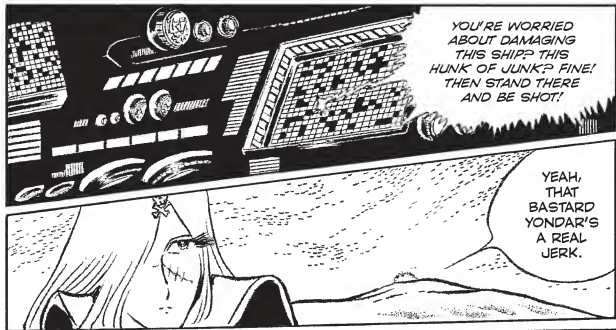
COME
OUT!!



IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT
YOU ARE A
NOVICE IN
BATTLE.

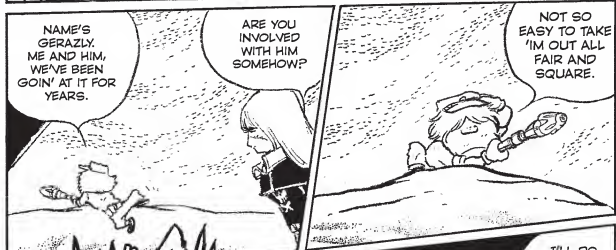
MAYBE... BUT I
KNOW ENOUGH
TO USE MY
OPPONENT'S
WEAKNESSES
AGAINST
THEM!





YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT DAMAGING
THIS SHIP? THIS
HUNK OF JUNK? FINE!
THEN STAND THERE
AND BE SHOT!

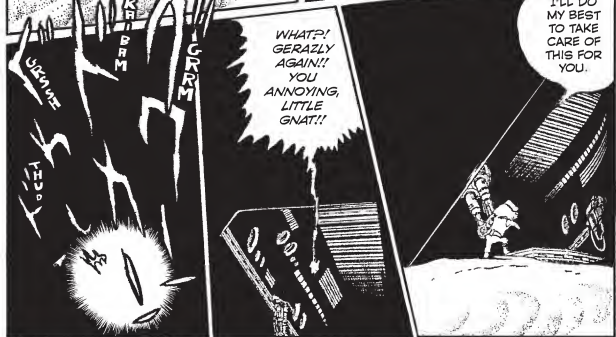
YEAH,
THAT
BASTARD
YONDAR'S
A REAL
JERK.



NAME'S
GERAZLY.
ME AND HIM,
WE'VE BEEN
GOIN' AT IT FOR
YEARS.

ARE YOU
INVOLVED
WITH HIM
SOMEHOW?

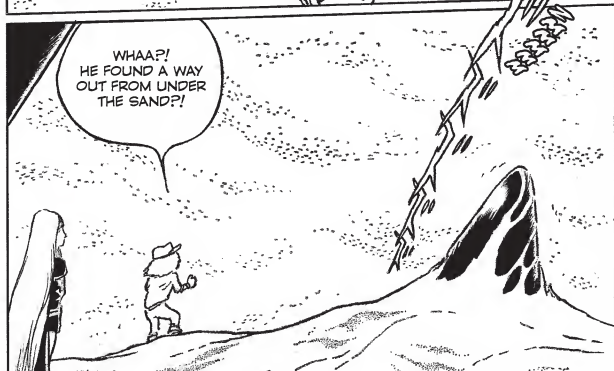
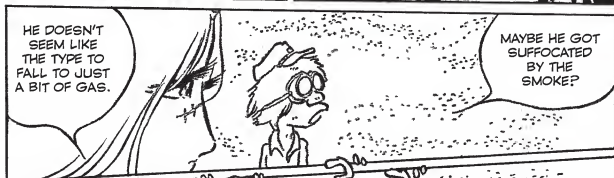
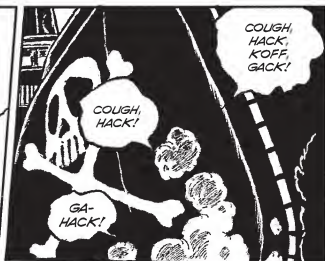
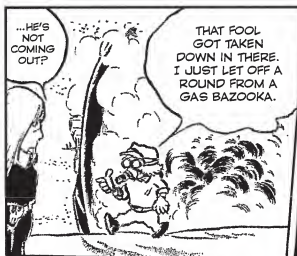
NOT SO
EASY TO TAKE
'IM OUT ALL
FAIR AND
SQUARE.



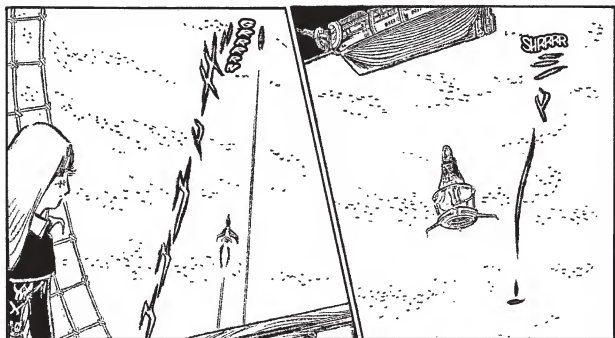
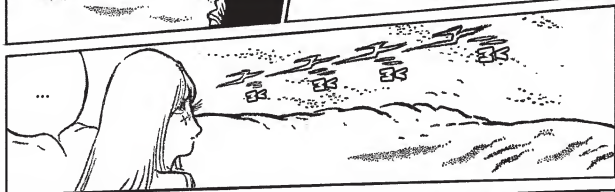
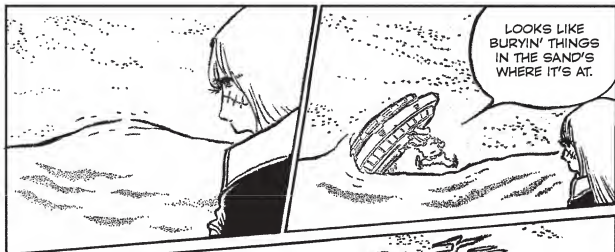
WHAT?!
GERAZLY
AGAIN!!
YOU
ANNOYING,
LITTLE
GNAT!!

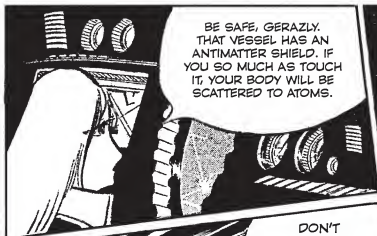
I'LL DO
MY BEST
TO TAKE
CARE OF
THIS FOR
YOU.











BE SAFE, GERAZLY.
THAT VESSEL HAS AN
ANTIMATTER SHIELD. IF
YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH
IT, YOUR BODY WILL BE
SCATTERED TO ATOMS.



DON'T
YOU WORRY
'BOUT ME!!



WHY DO YOU
PURSUE A MAN
OF SUCH LITTLE
WORTH?



BY TRYIN' TO
LAY CLAIM TO THAT
PRECIOUS RELIC,
HE INSULTED A
GREAT MAN. A MAN
WHOM I TRUSTED
MORE THAN
ANYONE IN THE
UNIVERSE.

HE INSULTED
THE OWNER
OF THE DEATH
SHADOW!



THAT'S RIGHT.
KEPT ME GOIN'
WHEN I WAS ABOUT
TO BUY THE FARM,
TIME AND TIME
AGAIN.

THEN YOU
KNOW THAT
MAN?



AND NOW I
CAN SMILE
KNOWIN' I'VE
DONE EVERYTHIN'
I'VE WANTED
TO DO. ALL
THANKS TO HIM.

HE GAVE
ME THE WILL TO
KEEP CHUGGIN'
ALONG!!



I CAN REST
IN PEACE IF
I DO THAT.

I'M GOIN' OUT
WITH A BANG,
AND TAKIN'
YONDAR WITH
ME.

WAS
THAT HIS
TOMB? HIS
HAT...?

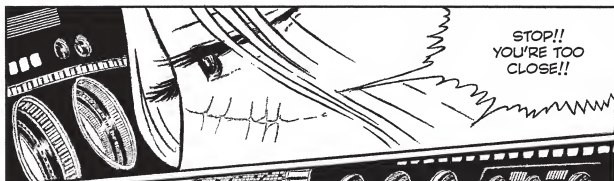
IS HE
DEAD THEN?
THE DEATH
SHADOW'S
OWNER...

HE'S
WANDERING
THE OCEAN
OF STARS!
SOME-
WHERE!!

NO...A GREAT
MAN LIKE HIM,
HE DOESN'T DIE...

THE OCEAN OF
STARS, YOU HEAR?
MAYBE I'M THE ONLY
ONE WHO THINKS SO,
BUT THAT'S WHAT
I BELIEVE!!

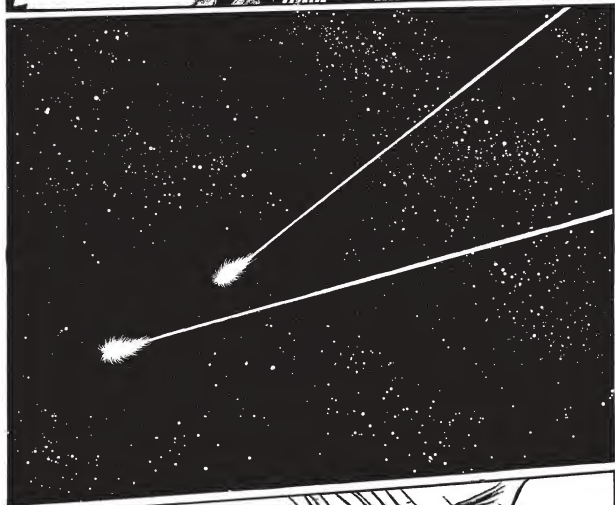


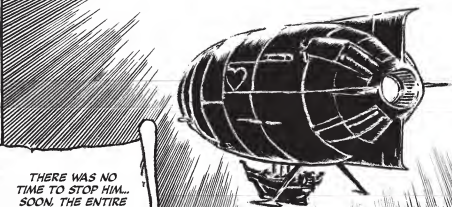


STOP!!
YOU'RE TOO
CLOSE!!

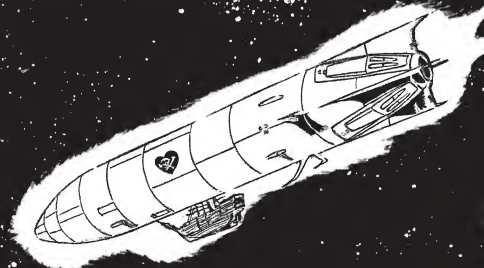


I KNOW. BUT MY LIFE
WON'T BE COMPLETE
UNLESS I DO THIS!! IT'S A
MATTER OF PRIDE!



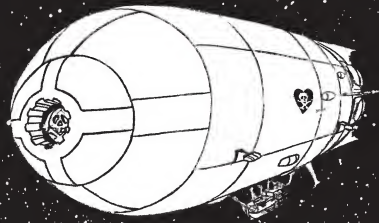


THERE WAS NO
TIME TO STOP HIM...
SOON, THE ENTIRE
SPACE AROUND ME
WAS FILLED WITH A
WHITE FLASH...AND THE
RESULTING INAUDIBLE
SOUND BECAME A
TREMOR THAT
SHOOK MY SHIP...



THE QUEEN EMERALDAS
AND I THEN PASSED THROUGH
THE CENTER OF A SPIRALING,
CLOUD-LIKE VORTEX FORMED
FROM THE DISSOLVED
PARTICLES OF ENERGY THAT
WERE ONCE THEIR SHIPS.
I FELT IT AS THEIR SHIPS PIERCED
MYRIAD HOLES IN MY BANNER
OF A WHITE SKULL ON A
FIELD OF RED BLOOD.

AS I LOOKED BACK I
SAW THE REMAINS OF THAT
MAN HAD BECOME
GLITTERING STARDUST AND
FORMED A GREAT RING, REACHING
OUT THROUGH THE UNIVERSE LIKE
COSMIC FILAMENTS. NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES I WITNESS IT,
SEEING BRAVE MEN LIKE HIM
DIE BRINGS PAIN TO MY HEART.



I AM EMERALDAS.
ONCE AGAIN, I MET
A BRAVE MAN WHO SHARES
MY ASPIRATIONS. ONLY TO
SEE THAT MAN TO HIS END
IN THIS COSMIC SEA...
YET I WILL SHED NO TEARS.
FOR I KNOW THAT SOMEDAY
I WILL MEET THAT SAME FATE...
I AM EMERALDAS.
A WOMAN WHO WILL WANDER
THROUGHOUT SPACE
UNTIL THE FIRE OF MY
LIFE BURNS COLD...



Interview with Leiji Matsumoto

About Queen Emeraldas



About The Restoration and Revision of Previously Uncompiled Works

In this new, complete collection, not only have you drawn new covers, you have also included two short stories that had not previously been collected. I had heard that the original art for these had been lost, and you had to create copies from the published magazines.

Matsumoto: We corrected the artwork using computers and did additional drawings by hand as needed, so it was practically good as new when we were done.

That must have required an immense amount of time and effort. It seems like the work of restoring just one of these corrected pages is a bigger job than just drawing a new one. And together, the two additional stories came to 54 pages...

Matsumoto: It was a lot of work. We had to get rid of all the defects to restore it to its original form. Nowadays, having computers definitely helps, but to get it perfect you really have to get your own hand into it. Computers alone can't bring it up to that level.

That's fairly different from restorations done by publishers or printers. You actually had to draw in the places that were missing or defective in the printed copy.

Matsumoto: It's a little different from what a retoucher has to do, isn't it? I remember that I had drawn it a certain way at the time, and I'm following the marks I'd made before to make corrections. Even though the angle at which I hold my pen and my grip are different now, I have to get it to resemble the original. What I mean is, it must be the same as before—I must bring it back.

Your Fondness for Watercolors—A Favorite Since Childhood

I would love to hear about the process of creating new colored art for the cover of this release of Queen Emeraldas.

QUEEN EMERALDAS



Matsumoto: The materials haven't changed a bit since the old days. I use Sakura Mat transparent watercolor paints on regular illustration paper—the same as I did when I was a child. I even use the same brushes and other painting materials that I've used since I was in elementary school.

You must be one of the few manga artists who hasn't switched over to Copic or other art markers, and continues to use the same tools you've always used.

Matsumoto: Used to be that in Japan, even if you were poor, you could at least afford to buy school supplies and stationary since they were cheap. This made it so any kid could draw things with art supplies. Art skills aren't dependent on the quality of your tools—it's actual practice and training that influences your skills—so from the time I was young, I made art with those painting materials, and after I discovered what worked best for me, I continued using those materials, and still use them today. Having expensive art supplies doesn't necessarily result in great art.

Though, an amateur would probably believe that more expensive paints produce better colors.

Matsumoto: Sure, it's believable, but that's just not how it is. Use whatever materials or tools you like—whatever you can afford will be fine. From olden times in Japan, art materials like rice paper, sumi ink, and inkstones were cheaply available to the common people. That allowed for the creation of many artists. From Toba Sōjō's *Chōju-jinbutsu-giga* (Animal-Person Caricatures), to Hokusai and Utamaro—they all used those materials. There are also many historical writings about this, and from those writings we can understand just how quickly the education on those techniques evolved—especially rice paper. Without rice paper, there's not very much you can do. And the old rice paper is nicer in quality than the paper we typically use these days. It doesn't fall apart. Even in the post-war era when everything was in chaos, you could get about three sheets of rough, straw paper for 1 yen, so it was affordable. For 5 yen, you could get one or two sheets of illustration paper. Paint was 10 yen, and a brush was about 7-8 yen. India ink was between 5-10 yen. India ink used to have a lot of hide glue in it back then, so you could paint color right on top of drawings that were done in ink.



Japan was far from lacking in the ability to supply those types of things, so post-war recovery was swift. There were no shortages of art supplies. Writers used to tear off pieces of draft paper and use them to blow their nose! When you tell that to people from other countries, they act like you were tossing cash in the wastebasket! When a young person visited my studio from Southeast Asia, I heard from him, "My father told me I had to stop drawing manga." I asked, "Why?" And he answered, "Because it's so expensive!" And when I asked, "What's expensive about drawing manga?" he explained that all the supplies are imported from France and said, "Paper is a real luxury." "Ahh..." I thought, "that's no good."

Your color works have an unmistakable force and flavor that can only come from being painted by hand. They give a totally different impression than something that's been colored using computer software.

Matsumoto: I'd say that as far as atmosphere goes, hand-made illustrations more clearly evoke a certain warmth. Facial expressions and expressing emotions are also important in illustration—so I feel that you have to be very careful when doing that, and doing it by hand is the way to go for that. Especially when drawing parts that are important, like the angle between the mouth and eyes. I don't think you can do it properly with CG. You need to use your hands to get it right. I think it is easier to depict personality and capture emotional expression when drawing by hand.

Thoughts About Your Characters

So you drew Queen Emeraldas when you were in your 20s, right?

Matsumoto: Indeed. First I did *Space Pirate Captain Harlock*, and then right after that I did *Queen Emeraldas*. To be honest, at the time I thought emeralds were red. That's why I drew her wearing red clothing (Laughs). It wasn't until I saw a movie about emerald mining called *Green Fire* that I realized emeralds are green. It was a shock, but what could I do about it then? Besides, recently a researcher wrote that, given what we know of the ways elementary particles and atoms can be arranged, there must be red emeralds somewhere in the universe. I was relieved to hear that. Emeraldas needs her red clothing. It's one of the things that sets her apart visually from Harlock.

QUEEN EMERALDAS



I Tell us about who your model was for Emeraldas.

Matsumoto: In my work, you won't see a lot of frail women who break down crying. Emeraldas is a representative model of a strong woman. She never whines, and she's a fearsome figure when angered. But being fearsome is not all there is to her; there is a gentleness and compassion hidden within the depths of her heart. Actually, throughout my life, there have always been many women with these qualities around me (Laughs). The type of woman that I've always admired—a strong, yet gentle woman—is my model for Emeraldas. And of course, this inspiration isn't limited to Emeraldas—the characters Harlock and Tochiro were also born from friendships I had as a young boy.

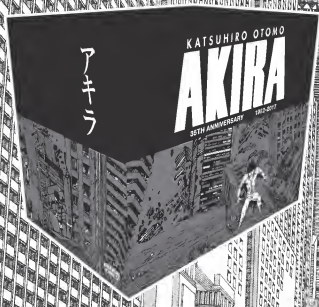
Since I was young, I was blessed with many interesting friends and classmates, and so they've naturally appeared in my drawings at some point. When I was creating *I Am a Man* [*Otoko Oidon*] and *The Great Tale of the 4 1/2 Tatami Mat Room* [*Ganso Daiyōjōhan Ōmonogatari*], I was staying in a boarding house. I was pretty broke, but I was blessed with great friends at the boarding house. A few of those guys ended up in my characters. I was able to draw those stories because of the great friends I had then. The stories then went from a 4 1/2 tatami mat room to outer space. In fact, they share common threads. Really, Emeraldas, Harlock, Tochiro, Tetsuro, Maetel—they're all part of the same story. It's all a story that goes back for generations, and continues all the way to outer space. It's all related. A never-ending tale of generations upon generations of close friends and lovers wandering the universe. And everything is interrelated.

In *Captain Harlock*, *Galaxy Express 999*, and *Queen Emeraldas*—when something happens, Harlock and Emeraldas come to save someone or offer their support. That's the story. These stories and characters are all bound by threads of fate going back to their ancestors—they're all friends on a journey that goes back for generations, and will go on forever.

Recorded on September 17th, 2009.

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NOW A MAJOR
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The Black Museum ^{The} Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this “Black Museum” sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of The Ghost and the Lady...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita’s *Ushio and Tora*

“A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**” — Anime News Network

“**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of ‘90s anime.” — IGN

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*New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of
the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!*

In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.

NekoGallaro

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI

By

Hiroyuki Takei



Japan's most
powerful spirit
medium delves
into the ghost
world's greatest
mysteries!

Story by Kyo
Shirodaira, famed
author of mystery
fiction and creator of
Spiral, *Blast of Tempest*,
and *The Record of a
Fallen Vampire*.



Both touched by spirits called yōkai, Kotoko and Kurō have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurō's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurō doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

IN/SPECTRE

STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

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H A P P I N E S S

——ハピネス——

By Shuzo Oshimi

From the creator of *The Flowers of Evil*

Nothing interesting is happening in Makoto Ozaki's first year of high school. His life is a series of quiet humiliations: low-grade bullies, unreliable friends, and the constant frustration of his adolescent lust. But one night, a pale, thin girl knocks him to the ground in an alley and offers him a choice. Now everything is different. Daylight is searingly bright. Food tastes awful. And worse than anything is the terrible, consuming thirst...

Praise for Shuzo Oshimi's *The Flowers of Evil*

"A shockingly readable story that vividly—one might even say queasily—evokes the fear and confusion of discovering one's own sexuality. Recommended." —The Manga Critic

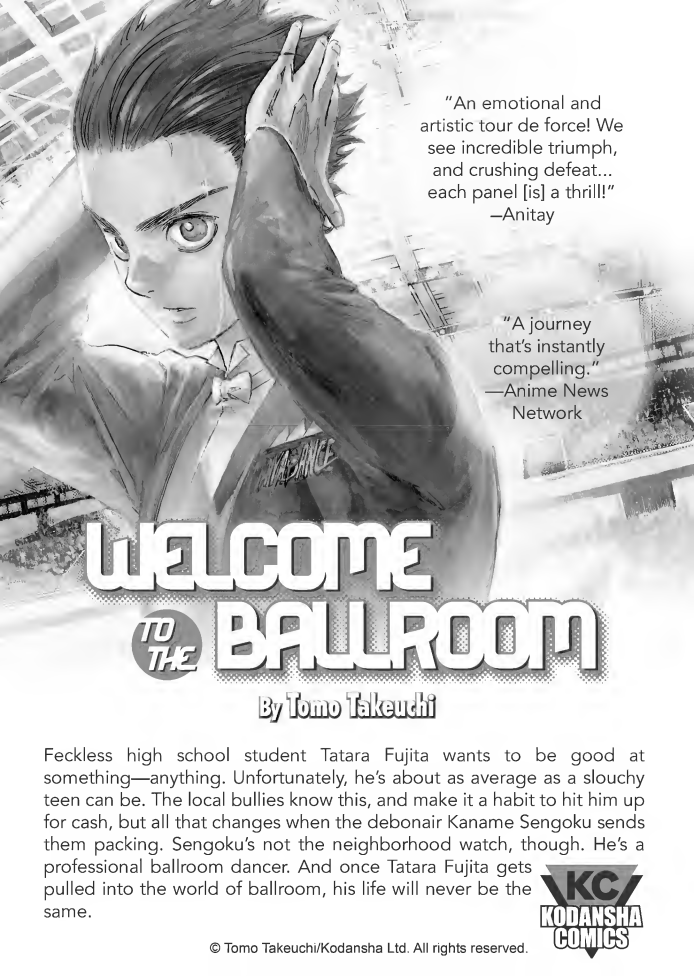
"A page-turning tale of sordid middle school blackmail." —Otaku USA Magazine

"A stunning new horror manga." —Third Eye Comics



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"An emotional and artistic tour de force! We see incredible triumph, and crushing defeat... each panel [is] a thrill!"

—Anitay

"A journey that's instantly compelling."

—Anime News Network

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

By Tomo Takeuchi

Feckless high school student Tataru Fujita wants to be good at something—anything. Unfortunately, he's about as average as a slouchy teen can be. The local bullies know this, and make it a habit to hit him up for cash, but all that changes when the debonair Kaname Sengoku sends them packing. Sengoku's not the neighborhood watch, though. He's a professional ballroom dancer. And once Tataru Fujita gets pulled into the world of ballroom, his life will never be the same.



Queen Emeraldas 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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